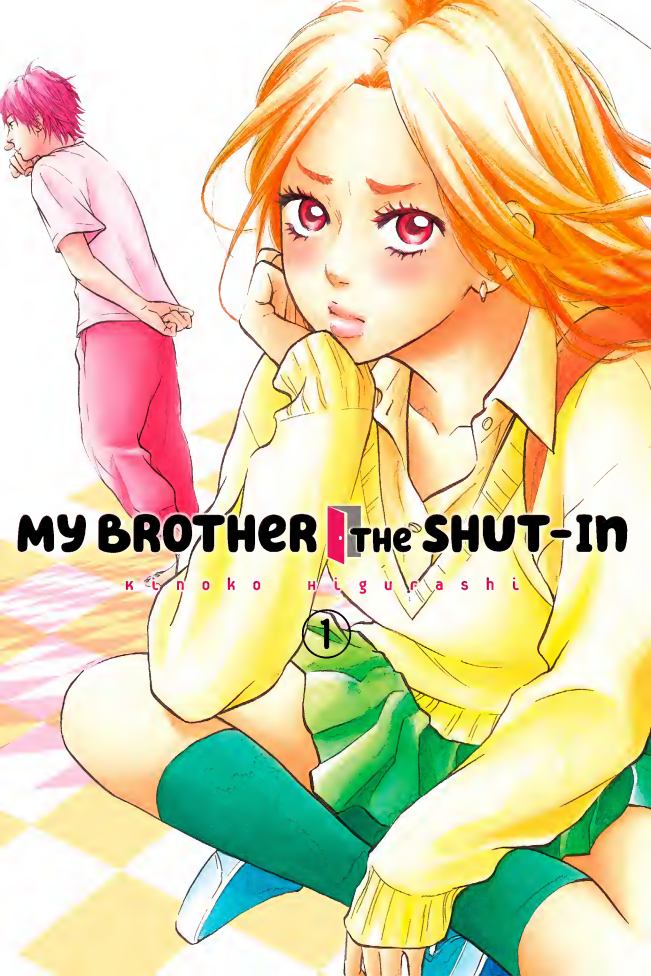




MY BROTHER THE SHUT-IN

k u n o k o h i g u r a s h i

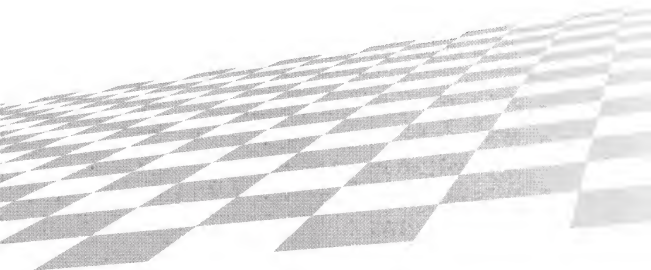
1

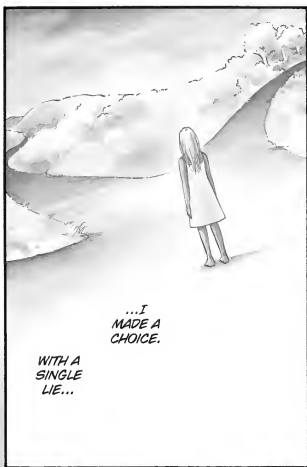
MY BROTHER The SHUT-IN

k i n o k o h i g u r a s h i

1

Chapter 1: Family Affairs	003
Chapter 2: Sneak Attack	049
Chapter 3: Lunchtime Surprise	091
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Chapter 5: Inspired by His Sister	167





...I
MADE A
CHOICE.

WITH A
SINGLE
LIE...



A YEAR
AGO IN THE
SPRING...



SPRINGTIME.



...I WAS
REBORN.

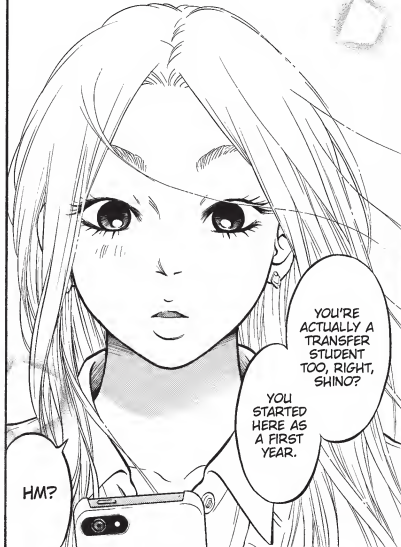


Chapter 1: Family Affairs

SPRING-
TIME.



* A JAPANESE COMEDIAN.



HM?

YOU'RE
ACTUALLY A
TRANSFER
STUDENT
TOO, RIGHT,
SHINO?

YOU
STARTED
HERE AS
A FIRST
YEAR.



EXCEPT
HE'S LIKE
HITORI!
WITH NONE
OF THE
PIZZAZZ.

He didn't
exactly radiate
talent.

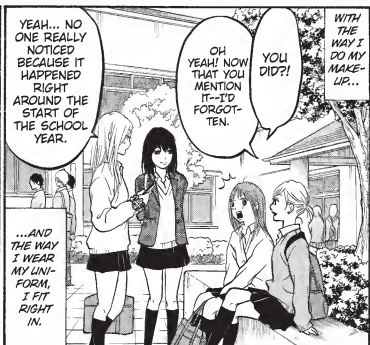
OOHH
...

THAT
RE-
MINDS
ME.



IT'S
SPRING
OF MY
SECOND
YEAR
OF HIGH
SCHOOL.

BUT JEEZ,
MY NEW
CLASS IS
ALL TOTAL
STRANGERS.



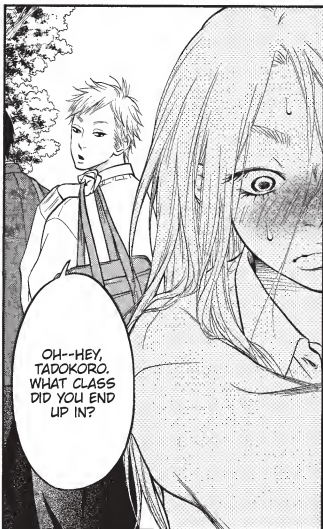
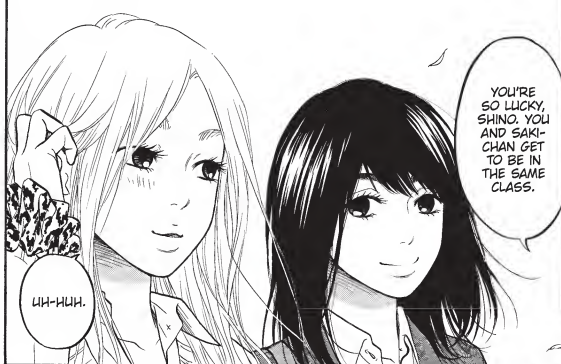
YEAH... NO
ONE REALLY
NOTICED
BECAUSE IT
HAPPENED
RIGHT
AROUND THE
START OF THE
SCHOOL
YEAR.

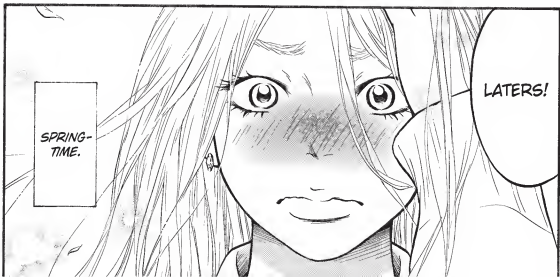
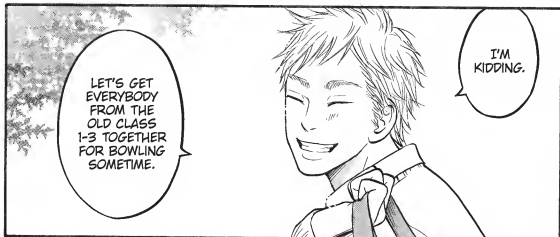
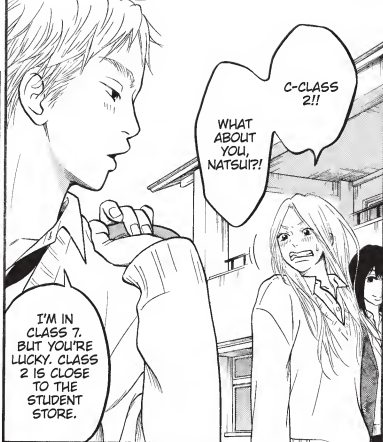
...AND
THE WAY
I WEAR
MY UNI-
FORM,
I FIT
RIGHT
IN.

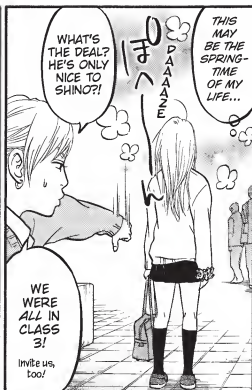
OH
YEAH! NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT--I'D
FORGOT-
TEN.

YOU
DID?!

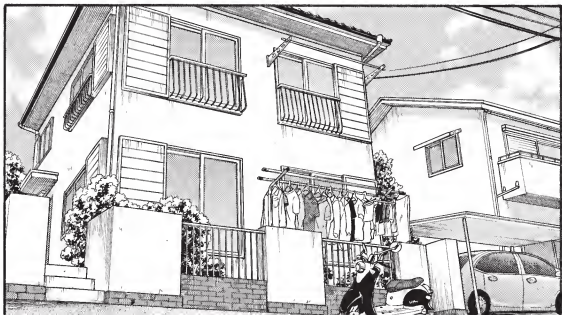
WITH
THE
WAY I
DO MY
MAKE-
UP...

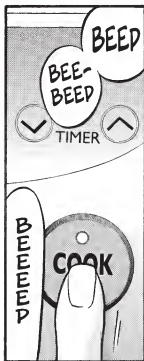
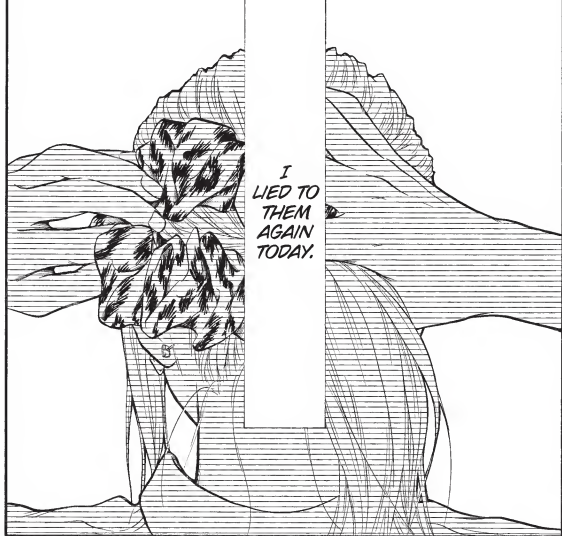


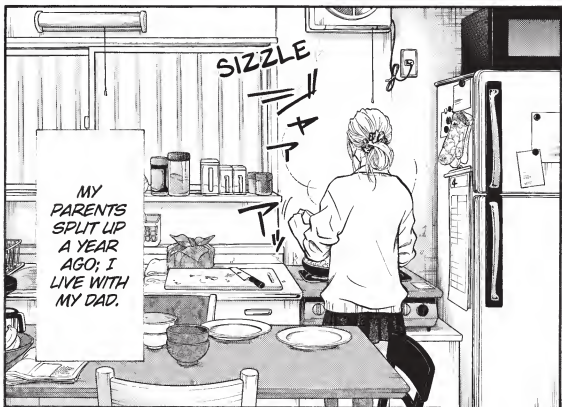
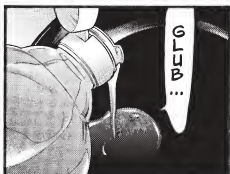
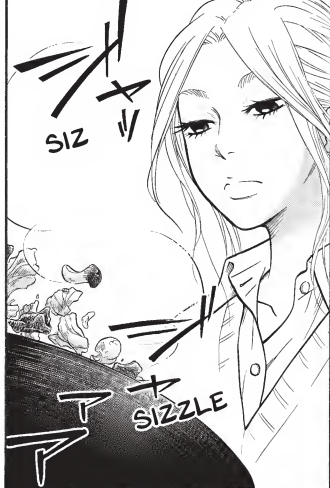


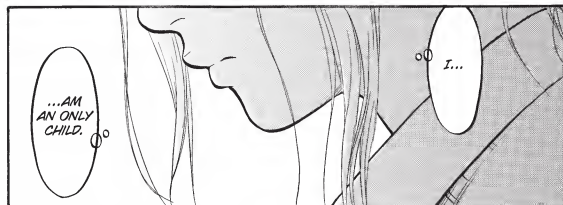
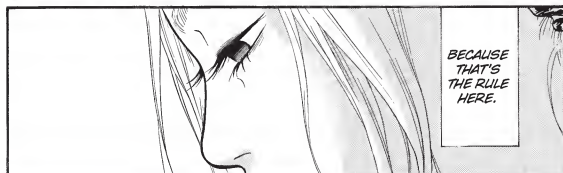


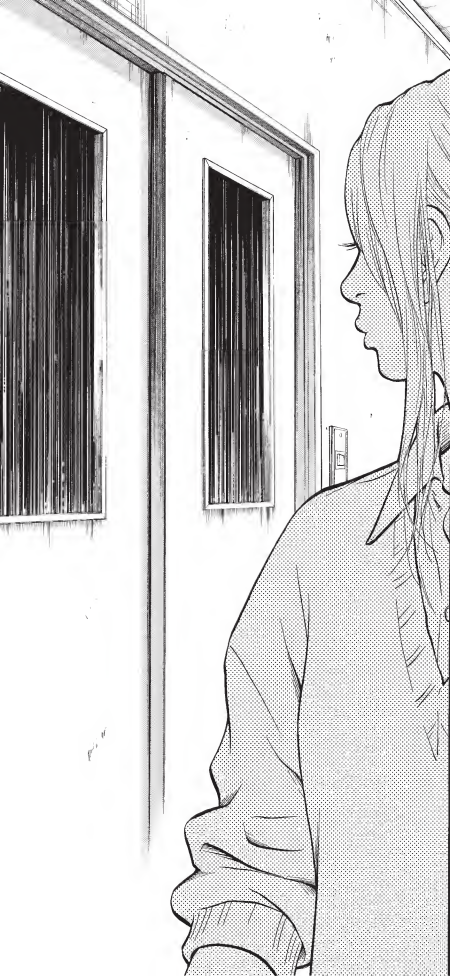
**GLISTO: A CHAIN OF FAMILY RESTAURANTS, LIKE DENNY'S OR IHOP.*



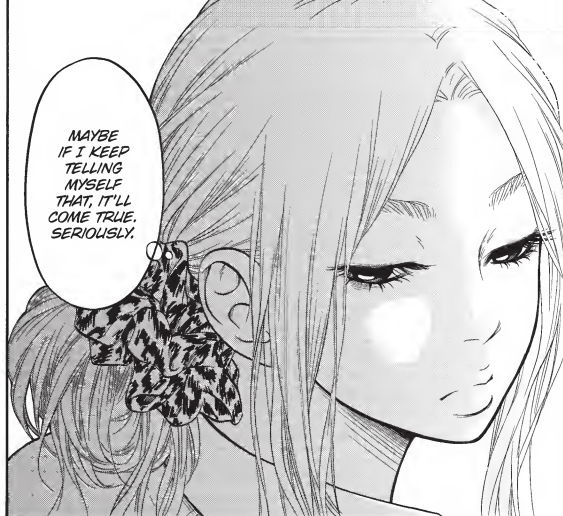




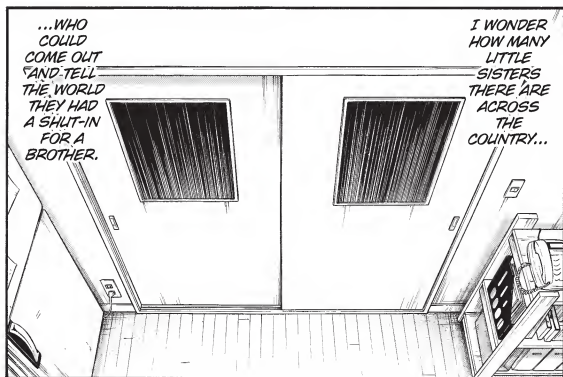




*I AM
AN
ONLY
CHILD.*

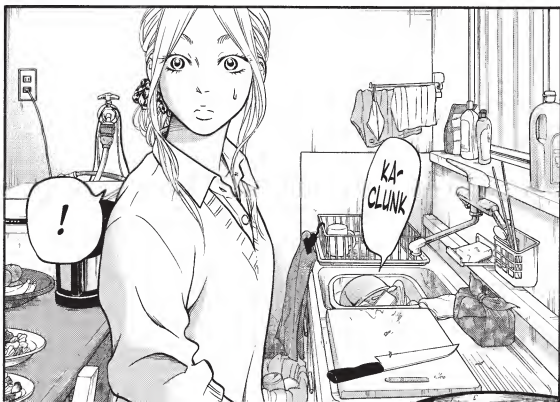
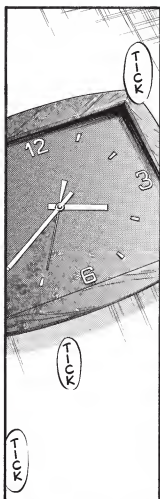


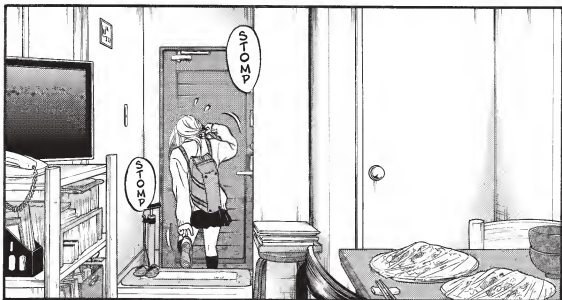
MAYBE
IF I KEEP
TELLING
MYSELF
THAT, IT'LL
COME TRUE.
SERIOUSLY.



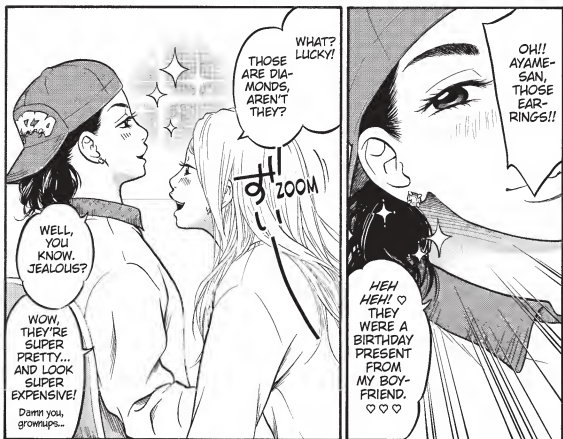
...WHO
COULD
COME OUT
AND TELL
THE WORLD
THEY HAD
A SHUT-IN
FOR A
BROTHER.

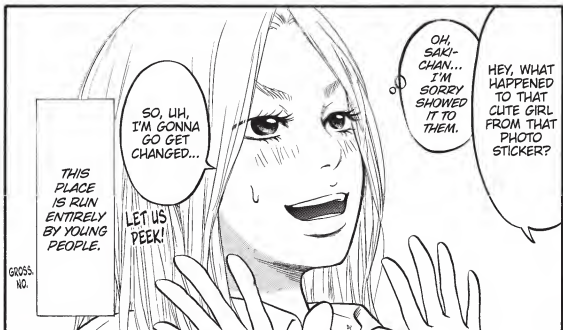
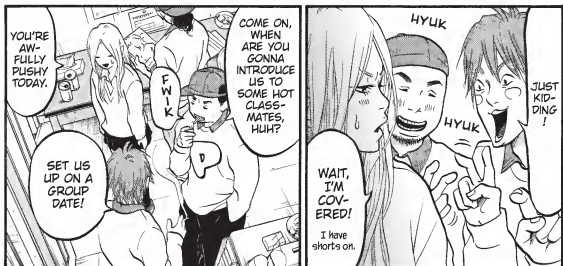
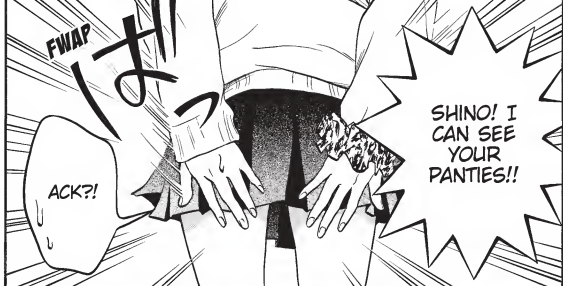
I WONDER
HOW MANY
LITTLE
SISTERS
THERE ARE
ACROSS
THE
COUNTRY...













AND ONE PERMA-NENT PART-TIMER. DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DOES WHEN HE'S NOT HERE.

COME ON, SHINO, YOU DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND, RIGHT?



FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MY AGE ...

MORN-ING ...

GOOD MORN-ING!

...TO COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS.



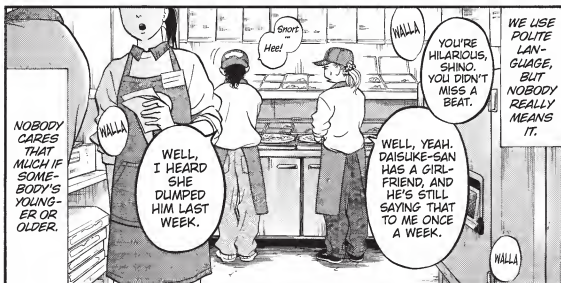
NO, THANKS. I'M GOOD.

WHY NOT JUST DATE ME ALREADY ?!

POING

PFF...

HE'S ALWAYS SO TAN...



NOBODY CARES THAT MUCH IF SOME-BODY'S YOUNGER OR OLDER.

WELL, I HEARD SHE DUMPED HIM LAST WEEK.

SHORT ...

Hee!

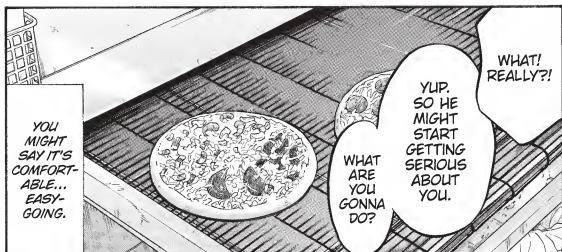
WALLA

YOU'RE HILARIOUS, SHINO. YOU DIDN'T MISS A BEAT.

WELL, YEAH. DAISUKE-SAN HAS A GIRL-FRIEND, AND HE'S STILL SAYING THAT TO ME ONCE A WEEK.

WE USE POLITE LAN-GUAGE, BUT NOBODY REALLY MEANS IT.

WALLA



YOU
MIGHT
SAY IT'S
COMFORT-
ABLE...
EASY-
GOING.

WHAT!
REALLY?!

YUP.
SO HE
MIGHT
START
GETTING
SERIOUS
ABOUT
YOU.

WHAT
ARE
YOU
GONNA
DO?



THAT'S
NEVER
GOING TO
HAPPEN!!

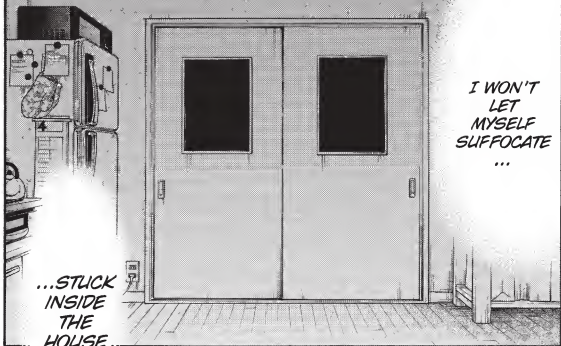
IT RE-
CHARGES
MY
MENTAL
ENERGY!



THIS
PLACE IS
ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL
FOR ME
TO TRULY
BREATHE!!

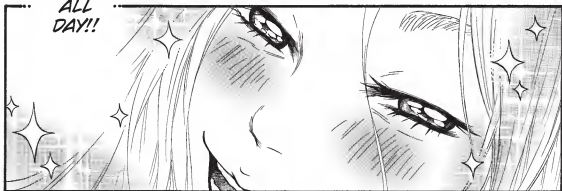
ALL MY
INTERAC-
TIONS WITH
OLDER
PEOPLE-
IT ALL
HAPPENS
OUTSIDE.

ALL MY
TIME TO
JUMP AND
SHOUT...
TO LET
IT ALL
OUT...



I WON'T
LET
MYSELF
SUFFOCATE
...

...STUCK
INSIDE
THE
HOUSE...
ALL
DAY!!



KINDA
HAP-
HAZARD,
ISN'T
HE.

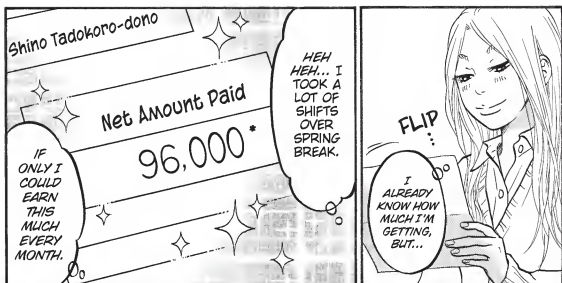
WHAT?
OH,
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH,
SIR!

HERE'S
LAST
MONTH'S
WAGE SLIP.
SORRY
IT'S
LATE.

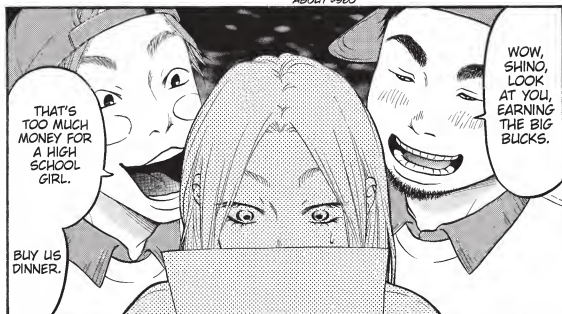
GOOD
WORK,
TADO-
KORO!

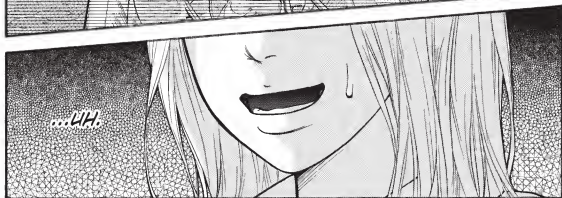
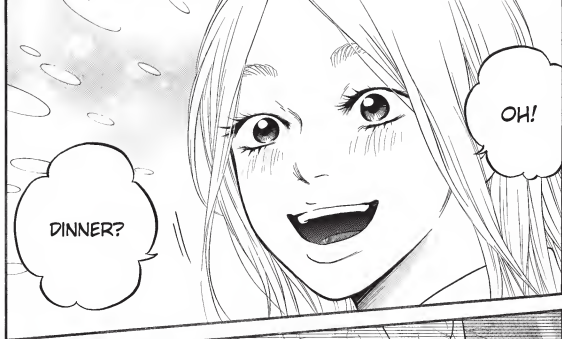


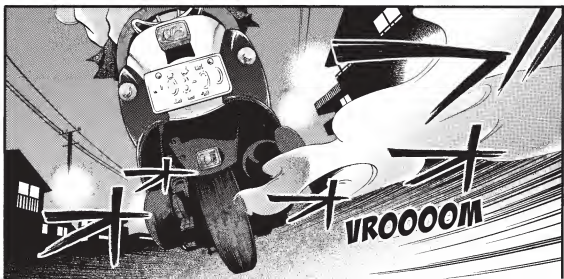
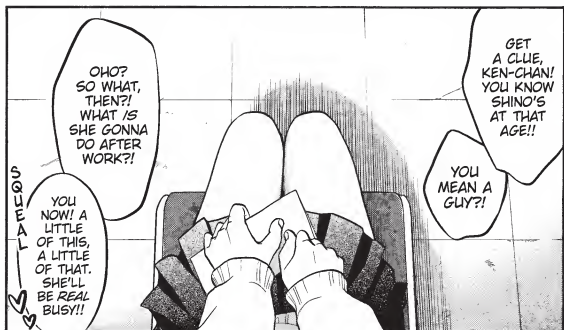
THANKS
FOR
COMING
TODAY!

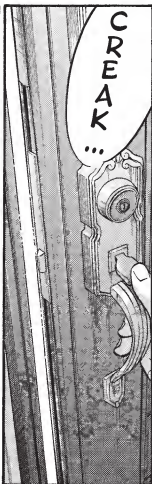


*ABOUT \$960

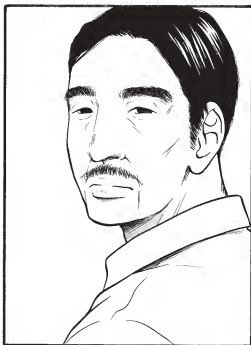
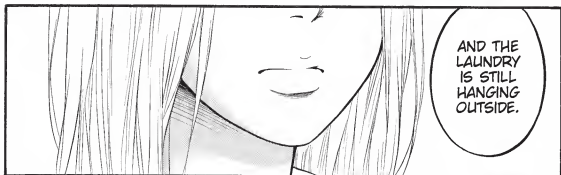
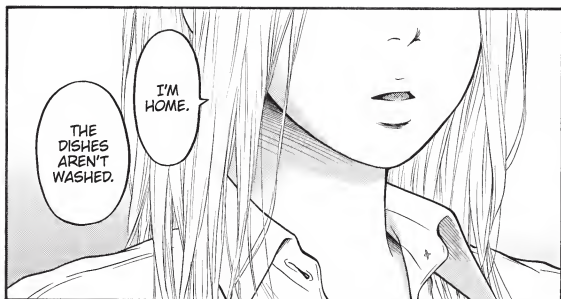








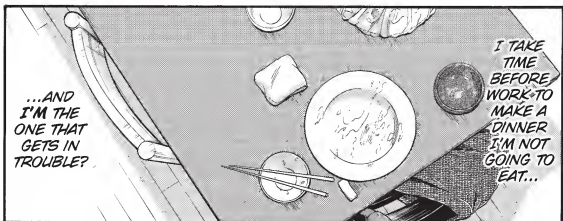








IF
SOMEONE
HAS TO
DO THE
HOUSE-
WORK,
WHY CAN'T
IT BE THE
GUY WHO
NEVER
LEAVES?

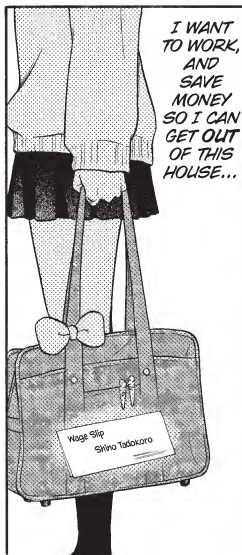


...AND
I'M THE
ONE THAT
GETS IN
TROUBLE?

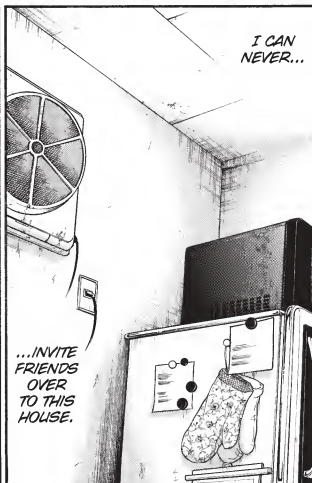
I TAKE
TIME
BEFORE
WORK TO
MAKE A
DINNER
I'M NOT
GOING TO
EAT...



I CAN'T
TELL ANYONE
THAT MY
BROTHER IS
A SHUT-IN.

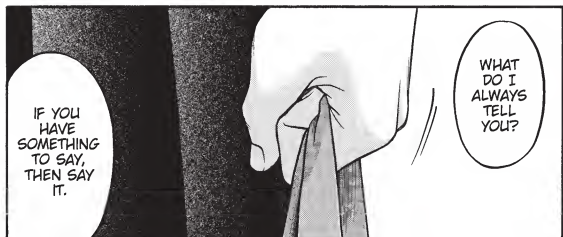
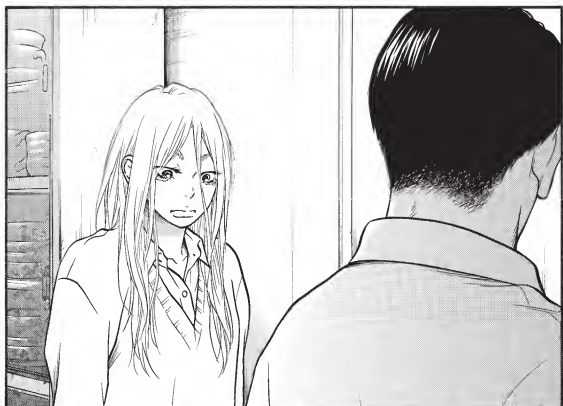


I WANT
TO WORK,
AND
SAVE
MONEY
SO I CAN
GET OUT
OF THIS
HOUSE...



I CAN
NEVER...

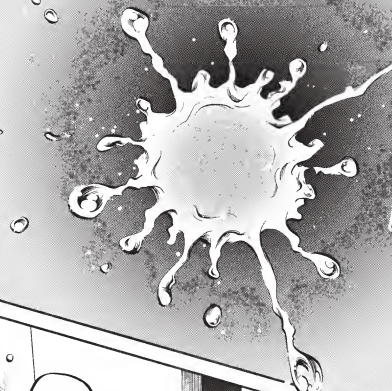
...INVITE
FRIENDS
OVER
TO THIS
HOUSE.





**I WISH I
DIDN'T HAVE
THIS STUPID
BROTHER.**





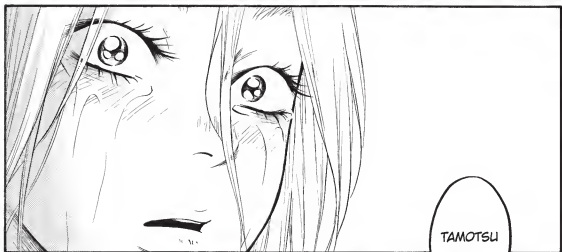
THEN
MY
LIFE
WOULD
BE...

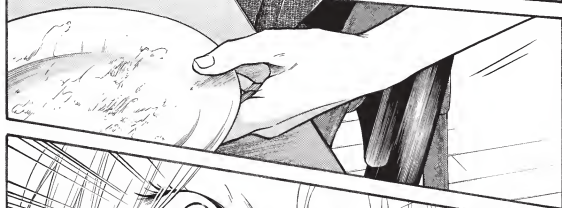
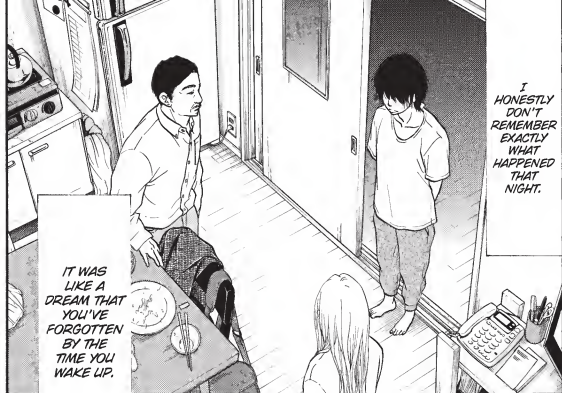
...SO
MUCH
BRIGHTER!

SINAP



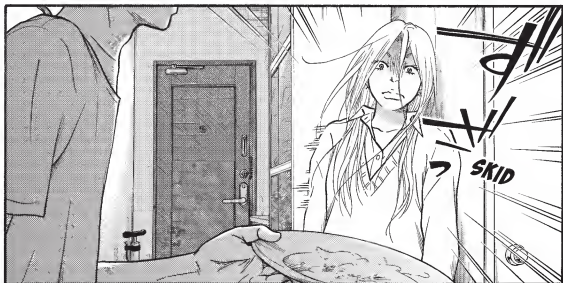


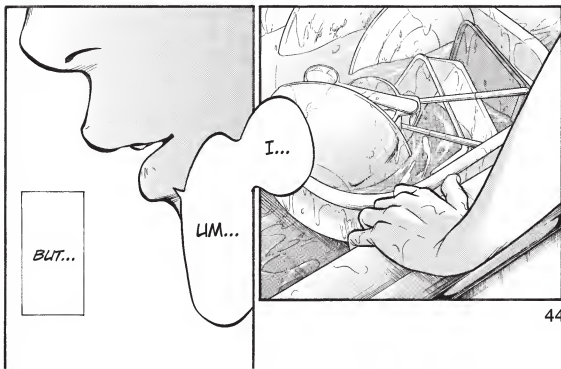
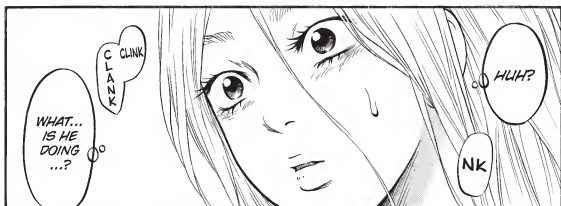


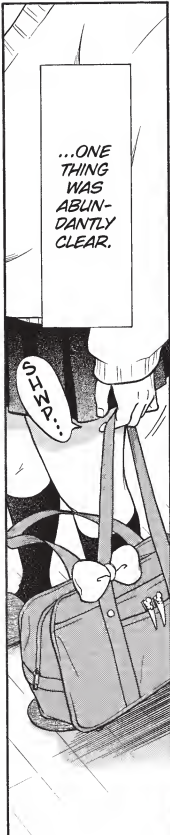


LIKE A
RECURRING
NIGHTMARE...

BA-DUM







...ONE
THING
WAS
ABUN-
DANTLY
CLEAR.

SIN...



I JUST
THOUGHT
TODAY THAT
MAYBE I'D
START
GETTING
OUT OF MY
ROOM A
BIT...

...OR
SOME-
THING.

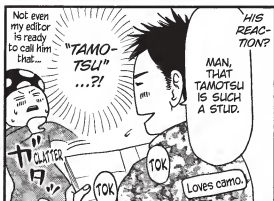
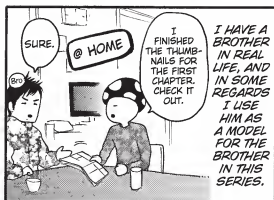
RIGHT
NOW, MY
TEENAGE
YEARS
ARE IN
SERIOUS
TROUBLE
!!

FOR
REAL.



MY BROTHER THE SHUT-IN

MY ACTUAL BROTHER



*AN INSTANT MESSAGING SERVICE.

Chapter 2: Sneak Attack





ONCE
UPON
A TIME,
THERE
WERE A
BROTHER
AND SISTER
WHO WERE
VERY GOOD
FRIENDS.



BUT ON
WEEKENDS,
THEY ALL
LIVED TO-
GETHER IN
HARMONY,
AND WERE
THE VERY
PICTURE OF
FAMILIAL
BLISS.

THEIR
PARENTS BUILT
THE FAMILY'S
DREAM HOME
DEEP IN THE
MOUNTAINS.
THE FATHER
HAD TO WORK
AWAY FROM
HOME TO KEEP
HIS JOB.

HE STOPPED
LISTENING TO HIS
MOTHER, AND
STARTED BEHAVING
VIOLENTLY, EVEN
AT HOME.

HE
WOULD
SKIP
SCHOOL
AND
HANG OUT
WITH THE
WRONG
CROWD.



HE MET
WITH
DISCOUR-
AGEMENT, IN
HIS EXTRA-
CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES,
AND
STOPPED
ATTENDING.

THEN THE
BROTHER
WENT TO
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

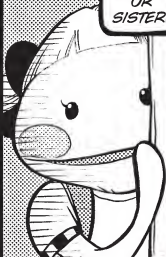


HIS
SISTER,
WHO WAS
ONLY
IN EL-
EMENTARY
SCHOOL,
DIDN'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHY HER
BROTHER
WAS
ACTING
THAT WAY.
SHE WAS
JUST
SAD TO
SEE THE
THINGS
BROKEN.



BUT
EVERY-
THING
IN THE
HOUSE
WAS
BROKEN.

HE
NEVER
RAISED
A HAND
AGAINST
HIS
MOTHER
OR
SISTER.

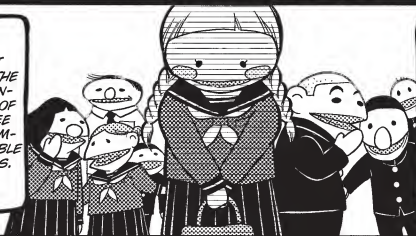


HER
BROTHER
CLOSED
HIS HEART
COMPLETE-
LY AND
BECAME A
"SHUT-IN."



AFTER
SOME
TIME,
THEIR
PARENTS
OFFICIALLY
SEPARAT-
ED.

...IT
WAS THE
BEGIN-
NING OF
THREE UN-
COM-
FORTABLE
YEARS.



WHEN
HIS
SISTER
STARTED
GOING TO
THE SAME
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
THAT HER
BROTHER
DROPPED
OUT OF...



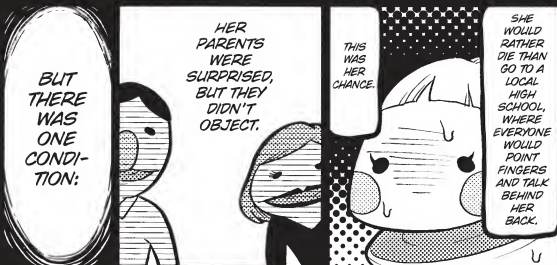
HIS
SISTER
HEARD
IT AND
SAID
...

HE
STARTED
TALKING
ABOUT
MOVING
HER
BROTHER
TO A
NEW EN-
VIRON-
MENT.

THREE
YEARS
AFTER HER
BROTHER
BECAME A
SHUT-IN,
HER
FATHER
LEFT THE
PENCIL-
PUSHING
LIFE AND
OPENED A
CLOTHING
STORE.



"I'M
GOING
WITH
YOU!!!"



BUT
THERE
WAS
ONE
CONDI-
TION:

HER
PARENTS
WERE
SURPRISED,
BUT THEY
DIDN'T
OBJECT.

THIS
WAS
HER
CHANCE.

SHE
WOULD
RATHER
DIE THAN
GO TO A
LOCAL
HIGH
SCHOOL,
WHERE
EVERYONE
WOULD
POINT
FINGERS
AND TALK
BEHIND
HER
BACK.



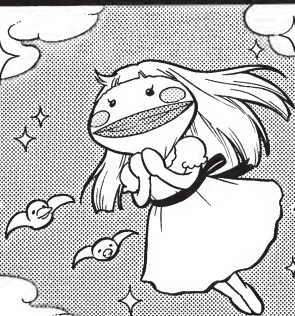
THIS SEEMED LIKE A SIMPLE TASK FOR THE SISTER, WHO ALREADY HELPED WITH THE HOUSEWORK FREQUENTLY.

BECAUSE SHE WAS TAGGING ALONG ON A MOVE MEANT TO HELP HER BROTHER, SHE WAS STRICTLY BOUND TO THIS RULE.



THE CHORES FOR ALL THREE OF THEM WOULD BE SPLIT EVENLY BETWEEN FATHER AND SISTER.

YES... THE SISTER WAS SHORT-SIGHTED THEN.



HER SHUT-IN BROTHER WOULD PRACTICALLY CEASE TO EXIST!

SHE COULD BE REBORN IN A NEW LAND SIMPLY BY AGREEING TO DO CHORES! NOTHING COULD BE SWEETER!!

THEN, THE SECOND SPRING AFTER HER MOVE...

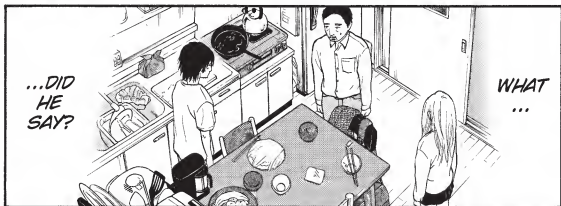


I JUST
THOUGHT
TODAY THAT
MAYBE
I'D START
GETTING
OUT OF MY
ROOM A
BIT...

...OR
SOME-
THING.

I...

UM...



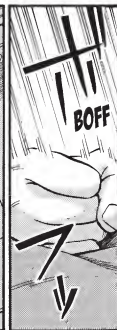
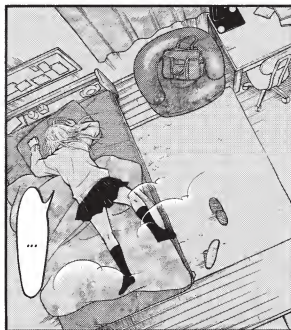
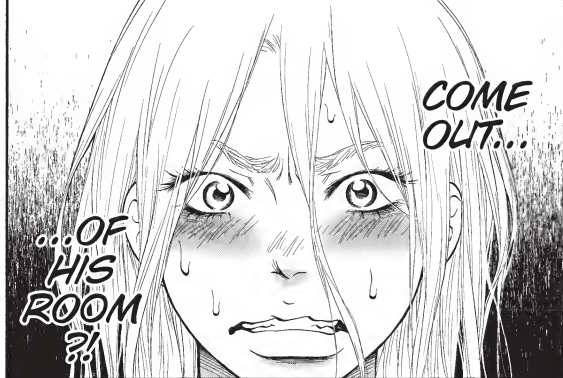
...DID
HE
SAY?

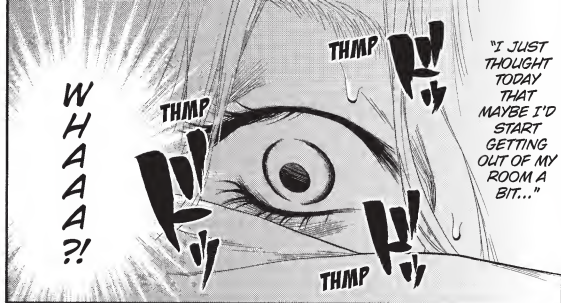
WHAT
...



...IS HE
GRINNING
ABOUT?

WHAT...





"I JUST
THOUGHT
TODAY
THAT
MAYBE I'D
START
GETTING
OUT OF MY
ROOM A
BIT..."



...HE'S
LEAVING
HIS ROOM
NOW?!

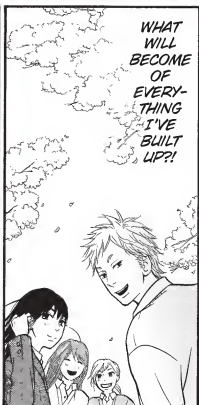
AFTER
SHITTING
HIMSELF UP
FOR FOUR
YEARS...



NO
!!!



IS
EVERY-
THING
GOING
TO FALL
APART?
BECAUSE
OF HIM?
AGAIN?



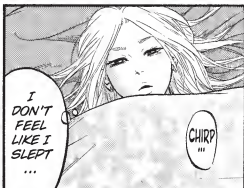
WHAT
WILL
BECOME
OF
EVERY-
THING
I'VE
BUILT
UP?!

I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS!!



CHIRP
...

CHIRP
...



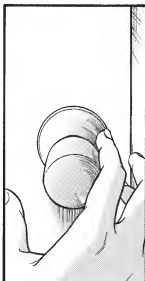
I
DON'T
FEEL
LIKE I
SLEPT
...

CHIRP
...



KA...
CHAK

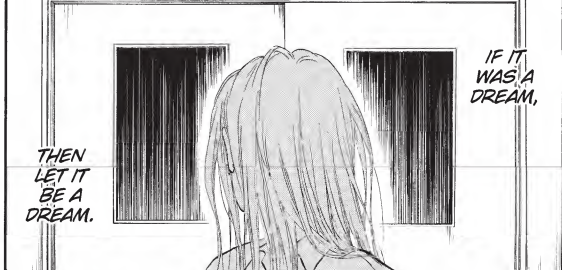
+



...THAT
HE'S
ALREADY
OUT
THERE?

IS IT
POS-
SIBLE
...





THEN
LET IT
BE A
DREAM.

IF IT
WAS A
DREAM,



ACK!

BACK
AT YOU.
ARE
THOSE
EGGS
BURNING
?

WAKE
UP, SHINO.
IF YOU
DON'T STOP
STARING
INTO SPACE,
YOU'LL BE
LATE.

DWAH
!!

P
S
H

P
S
H



C
R
E
A
K
...

...WHAT
HAP-
PENED
YESTER-
DAY...

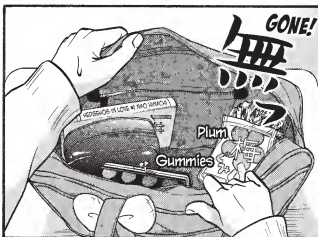
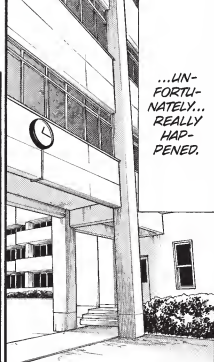
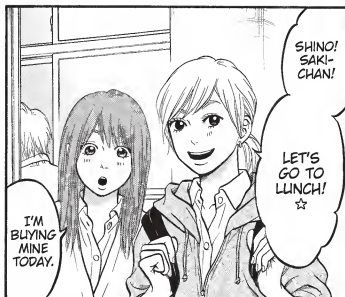


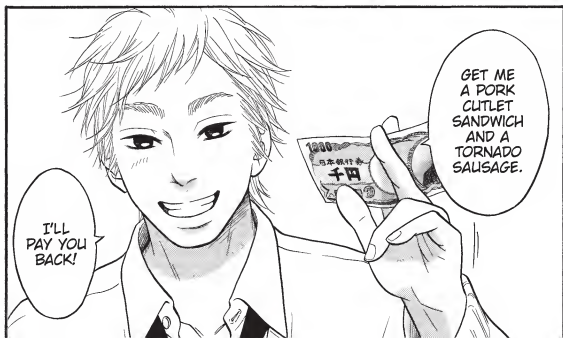
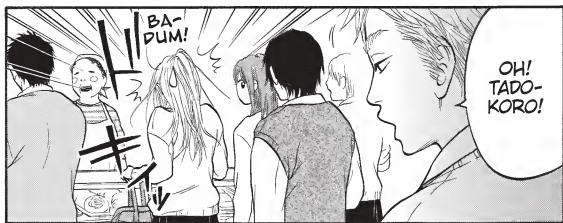
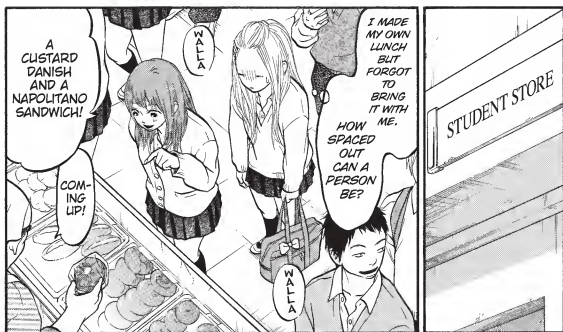
WHICH
MEANS
...

TUG
#4

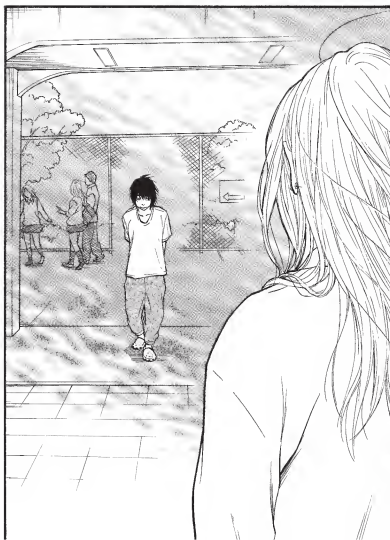
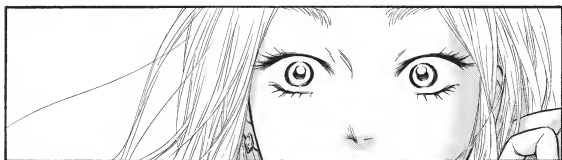
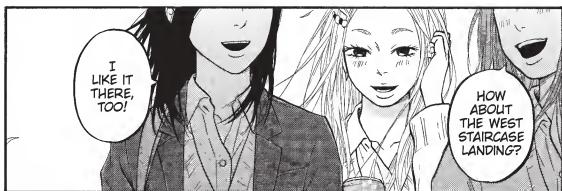


DAD'S
FREAK-
ING
OUT,
TOO.

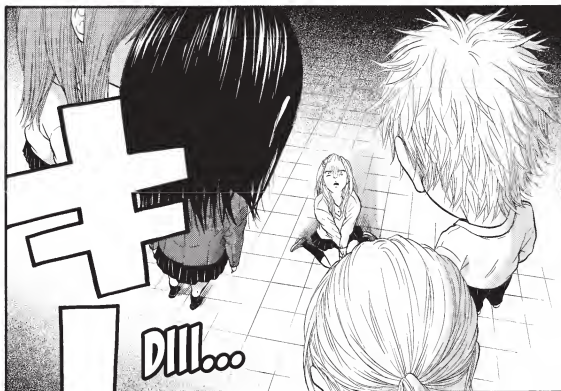
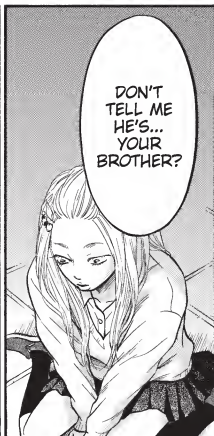






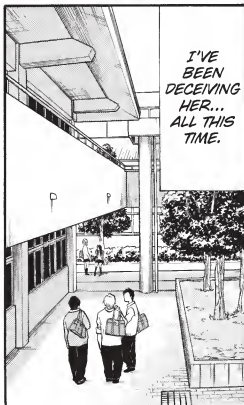








YOU
WERE
SWEATING
IN YOUR
SLEEP.



I'VE
BEEN
DECEIVING
HER...
ALL THIS
TIME.



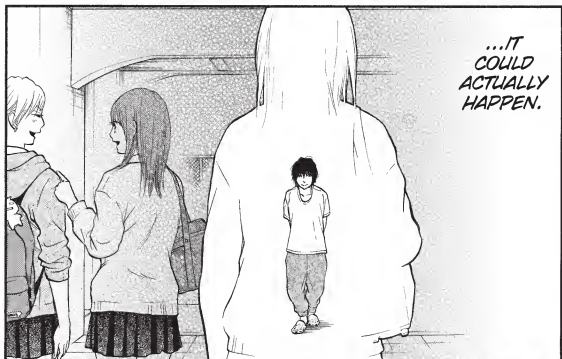
AND I'M
LYING TO
HER.



SAKI-
CHAN IS
SO NICE,
SHE
WOULD
EVEN
OFFER A
HAND-
KER-
CHIEF...

...TO
SOME-
ONE
WHO'S
SLEEPING
HARD
ENOUGH
IN CLASS
TO START
SWEAT-
ING.

THANKS
...

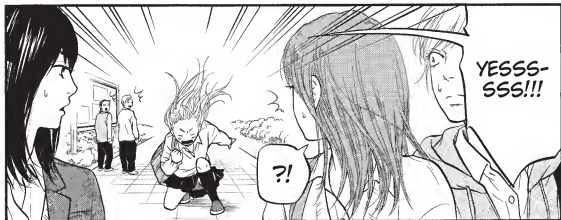


<Inbox

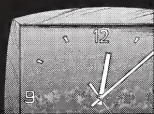
Sender: Dad

No subject

My friend came by the shop. We're going out to eat tonight. I've already told Tamotsu.



HE WON'T BE
HOME UNTIL
MIDNIGHT
AT THE
SOONEST.



AND THAT
MEANS...

...TONIGHT
...



WHEN
DAD
"GOES
OUT TO
EAT"...

...WHAT
HE
REALLY
MEANS
IS,
"OUT
DRINK-
ING."



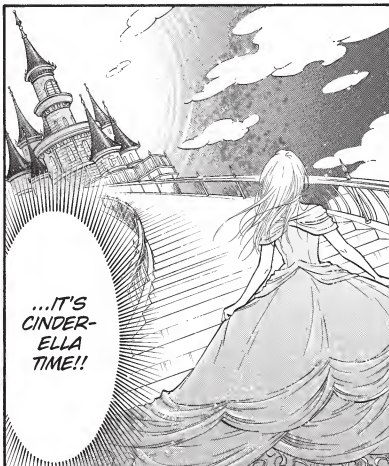
I WON'T
HAVE
TO SET
FOOT
IN THAT
HOUSE...

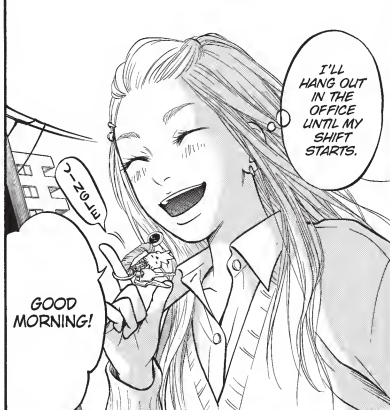
...UNTIL
MIDNIGHT.
I'M FREE!!

VROOOM

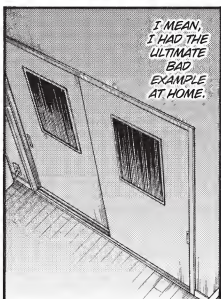
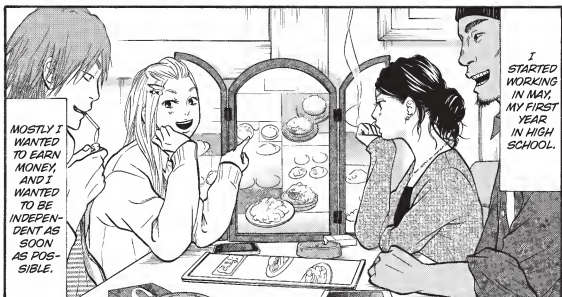


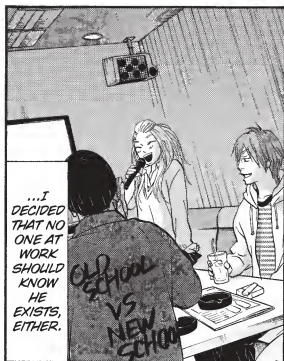
...IT'S
CINDER-
ELLA
TIME!!





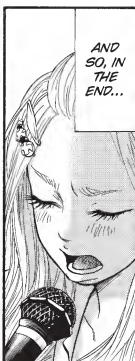






...I
DECIDED
THAT NO
ONE AT
WORK
SHOULD
KNOW
HE
EXISTS,
EITHER.

OLD
SCHOOL
VS
NEW
SCHOOL



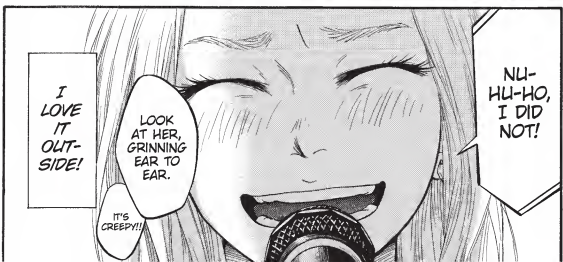
AND
SO, IN
THE
END...



AND
YOU KEEP
SINGING
LOVE
SONGS.
YOU GOT
A BOY-
FRIEND,
DIDN'T
YOU?!

IT'S
SO CUTE
HOW SHE'S
TONE DEAF,
BUT SHE
STILL SINGS
HER HEART
OUT.

SHINO,
YOU'RE
ADOR-
ABLE!



I
LOVE
IT
OUT-
SIDE!

LOOK
AT HER,
GRINNING
EAR TO
EAR.

IT'S
CREEPY!!!

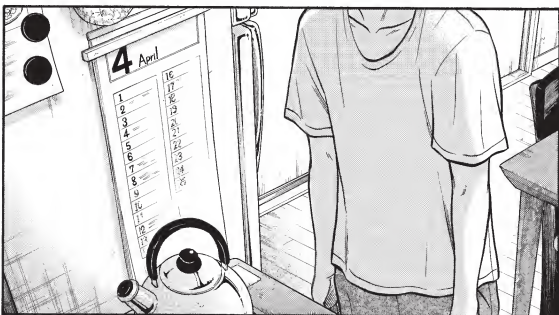
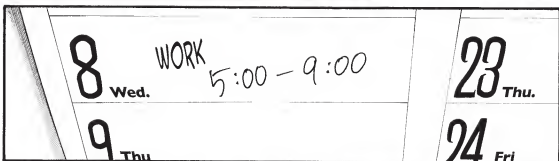
NU-
HU-HO,
I DID
NOT!

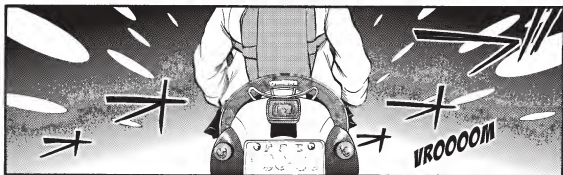


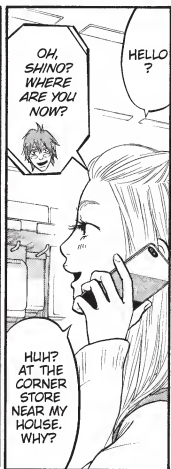
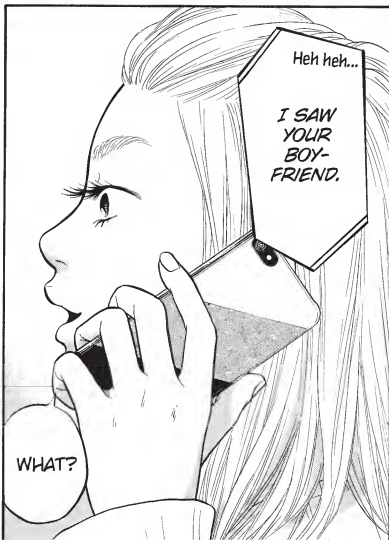
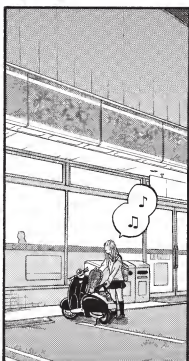
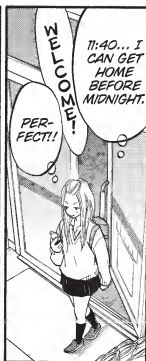
...IS
BLOWN
AWAY.

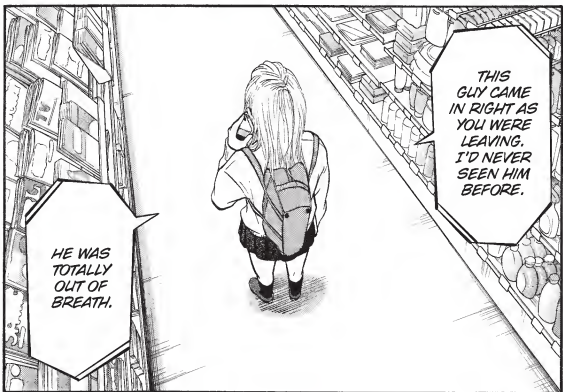
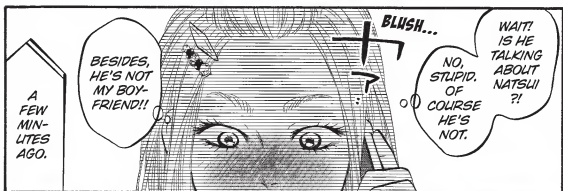
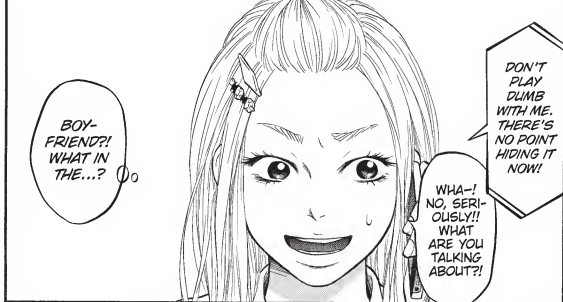


IT'S SO
MUCH
FUN,
ALL THE
GLOOM
AND
DOOM I
FEEL AT
HOME...





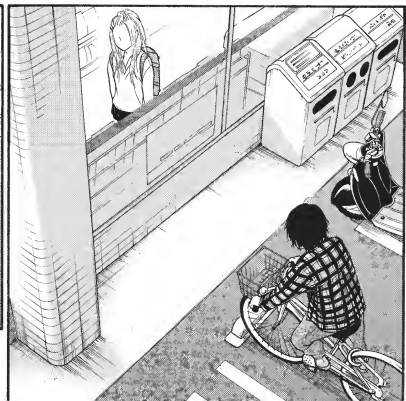
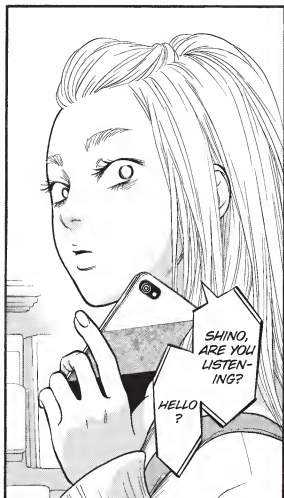


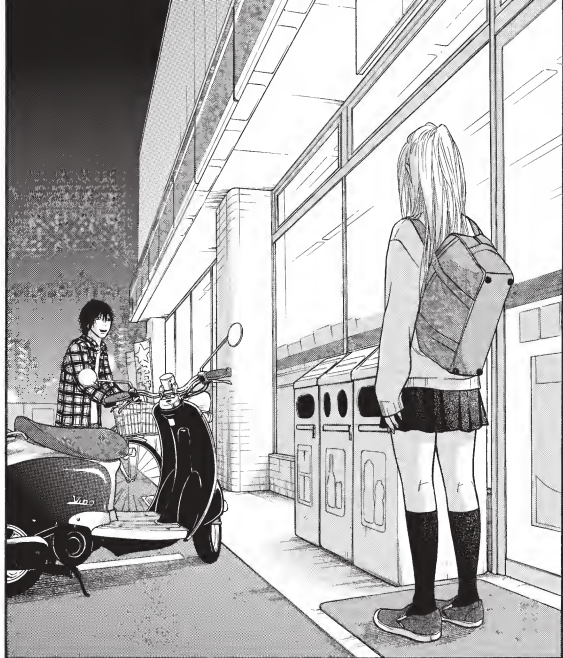




HE
WAS ALL,
"IS SHINO
TADOKORO
HERE?"







...WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

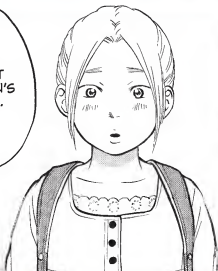


"MOM,
WHY DOESN'T
NII-CHAN*
GO TO
SCHOOL?"

THAT
EXPLANATION
WAS
ENOUGH
TO SHUT
ME UP
WHEN I
WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

IT ISN'T
TAMOTSU'S
FAULT...

WELL,
YOU SEE,
TAMOTSU WAS
WORKING VERY
HARD AT HIS
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES, BUT
HE COULDN'T GET
HIS TEACHER
TO SEE
THAT.



I
WENT TO
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
MYSELF
A FEW
YEARS
LATER.

BUT
THEN

I
THOUGHT
THERE
WAS A
REALLY
SCARY
TEACHER
IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL
THAT WAS
GIVING MY
BROTHER
A HARD
TIME.

FOR ONE
THING,
I DIDN'T
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND
"EXTRA-
CURRICU-
LAR."



AND I
STARTED TO
THINK THAT
THAT REALLY
COULDN'T
BE IT.





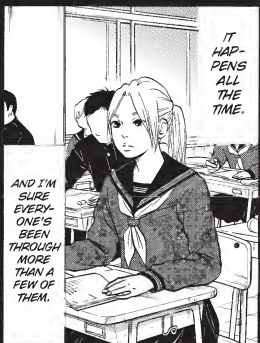
THERE
ARE
TEACH-
ERS
THAT
YOU
WON'T
EVER
LIKE.

LITTLE
FIGHTS
BETWEEN
FRIENDS
THAT START
WITHOUT
WARNING.

DAYS
WHEN
YOU
DON'T
WANT
TO
GO TO
SCHOOL.



SO
I CAME
TO THE
CONCLU-
SION...



IT
HAD-
PENS
ALL
THE
TIME.

AND I'M
SURE
EVERY-
ONE'S
BEEN
THROUGH
MORE
THAN A
FEW OF
THEM.





THAT
HE WAS
LACKING
AS A
PERSON.

WHAT
I'M
SAYING
IS...

...ALL
YOU'RE
DOING IS
BEING
A PAIN
IN THE
ASS!!





WHETHER
HE'S
SHUT UP
IN HIS
ROOM...

vroooooom

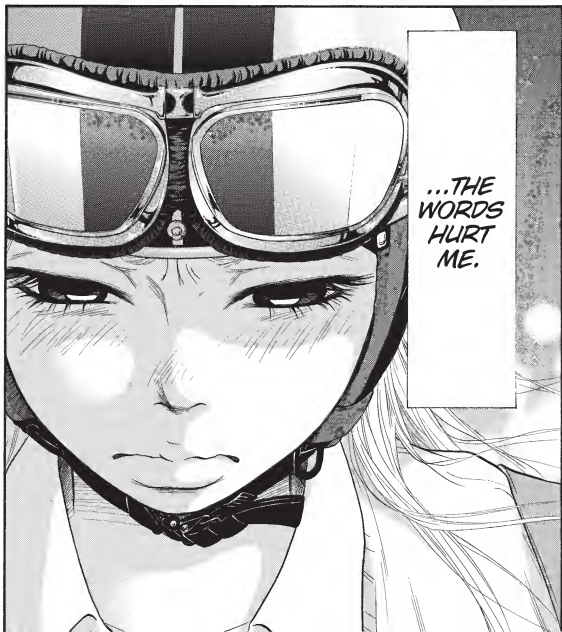
...OR
ACTUALLY
OUTSIDE
OF IT, HE'S
A PAIN IN
THE ASS.





BUT FOR
SOME
REASON,
AS SOON
AS I SAID
IT OUT
LOUD...

IT'S
HOW I'VE
FELT ALL
THIS
TIME.



...THE
WORDS
HURT
ME.

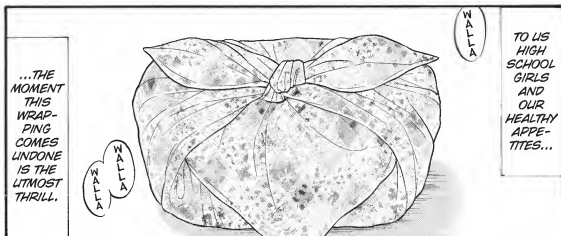
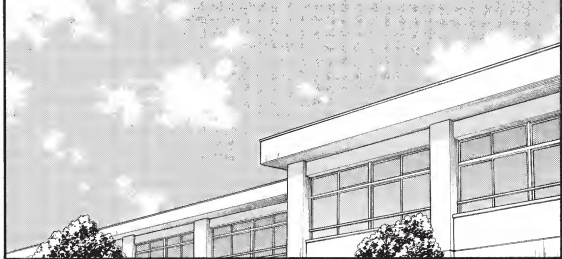
MY BROTHER THE SHUT-IN

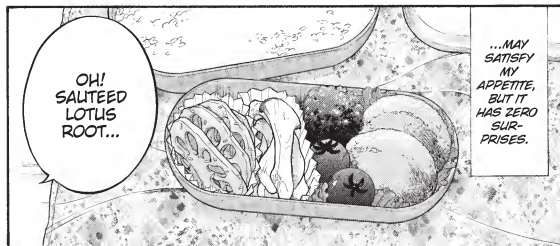
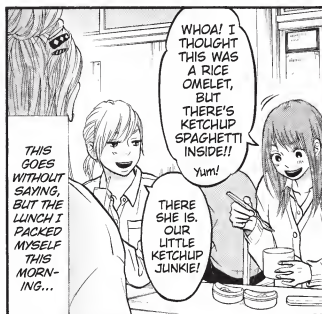
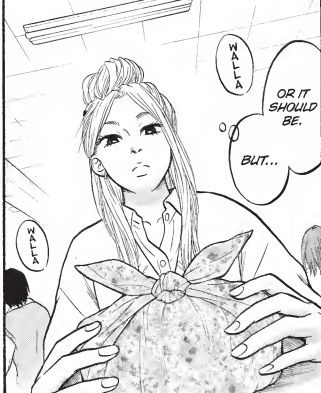
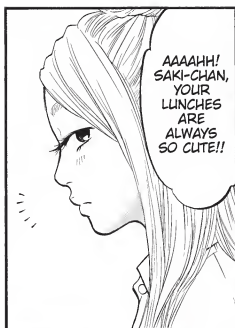
Me, the Recovering Shut-In

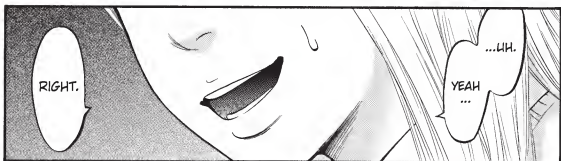
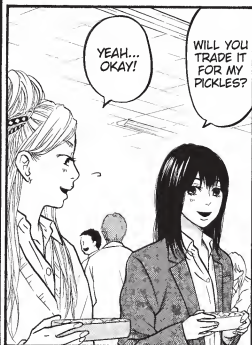


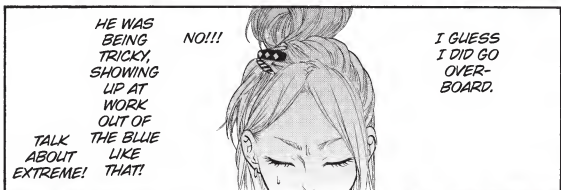
Chapter 3: Lunchtime Surprise

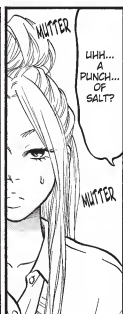
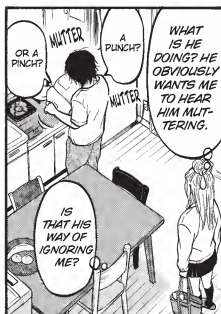
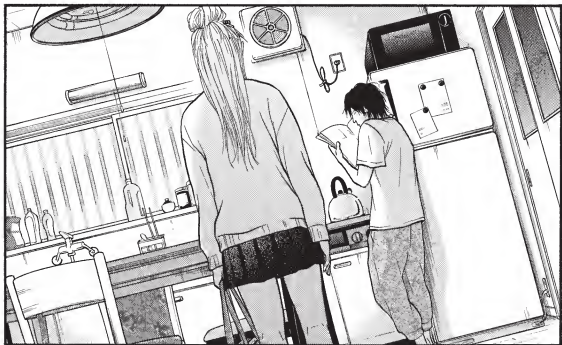














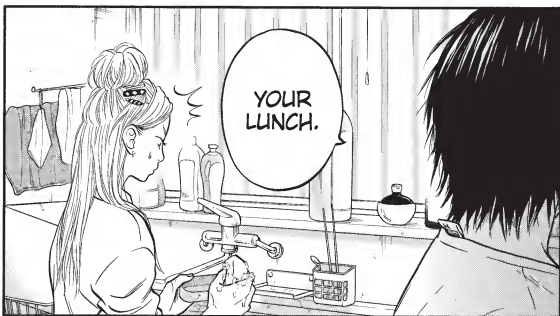
AND
COOK-
ING...
WELL,
EVENTU-
ALLY.



IF
THAT'S
HOW IT'S
GOING TO
BE, THEN
I WON'T
SAY, "I'M
HOME!"

THE
MORNING
LAUNDRY,
THE
EVENING
SHOP-
PING...

AFTER
HE AN-
NOUNCED
THAT HE
WAS GIVING
UP THE
SHUT-IN
LIFESTYLE,
MY
BROTHER
WAS GIVEN
A PORTION
OF THE
CHORES.

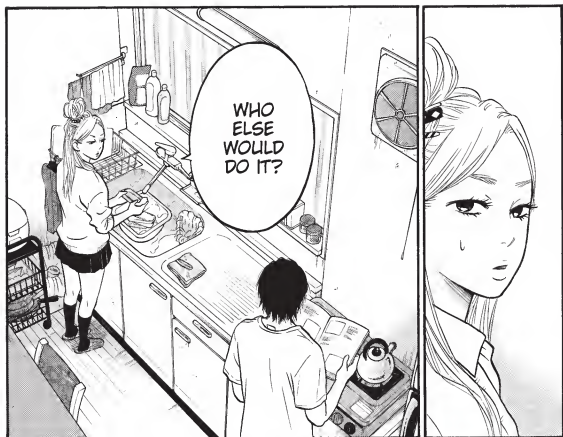


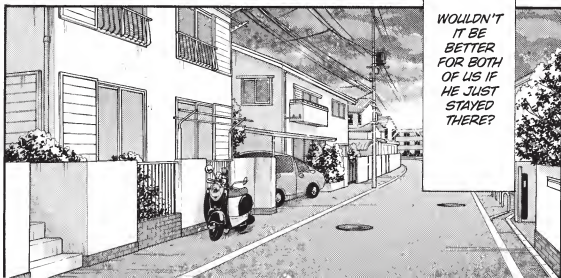
YOUR
LUNCH.

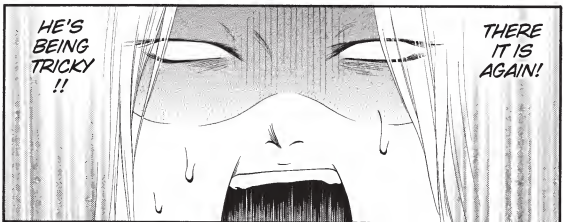
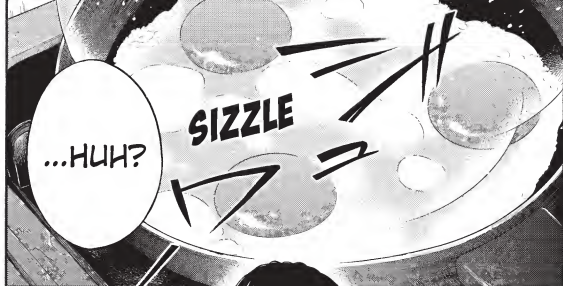


...FOR
SCHOOL.

DO
YOU
MAKE
YOUR
OWN?









WAIT A
MINUTE.



AND
HE'S
BLUSH-
ING!

LIKE
A NEW
BRIDE
MAKING
HER
FIRST
LUNCH
FOR HER
BELOVED
!!



WHY?

AFTER
THAT CON-
VERSATION,
HIS NEXT
THOUGHT
IS, "OKAY,
I'LL MAKE
YOU ONE"
?!

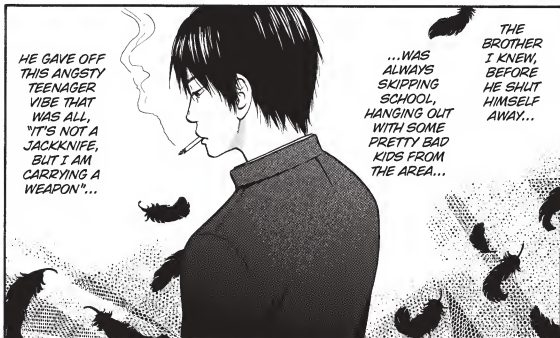


WAS
MY BROTHER
ALWAYS LIKE
THIS?



...SINCE
THAT
NIGHT...

IT'S
BEEN
IN THE
BACK
OF MY
MIND...



HE GAVE OFF
THIS ANGSTY
TEENAGER
VIBE THAT
WAS ALL,
"IT'S NOT A
JACKKNIFE,
BUT I AM
CARRYING A
WEAPON"...

...WAS
ALWAYS
SKIPPING
SCHOOL,
HANGING OUT
WITH SOME
PRETTY BAD
KIDS FROM
THE AREA...

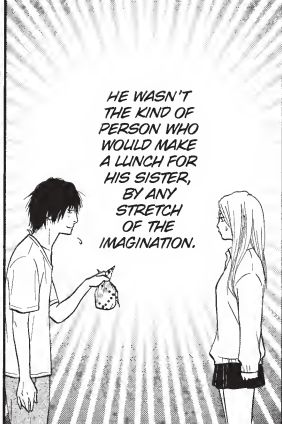
THE
BROTHER
I KNEW,
BEFORE
HE SHUT
HIMSELF
AWAY...



WHAT
IN THE
WORLD
HAD-
PENED
INSIDE
THAT
ROOM?



GLAZOE ...

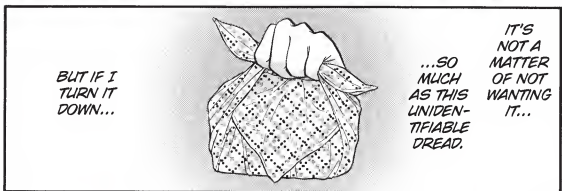


HE WASN'T
THE KIND OF
PERSON WHO
WOULD MAKE
A LUNCH FOR
HIS SISTER,
BY ANY
STRETCH
OF THE
IMAGINATION.



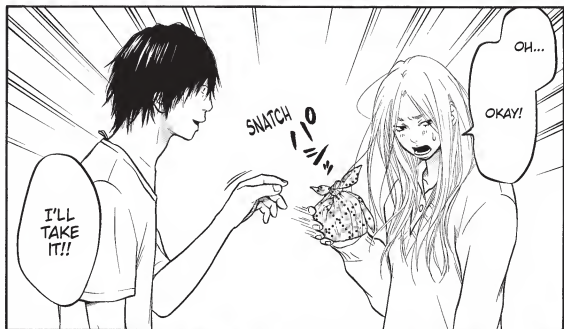
...YOU
DON'T
WANT
IT?

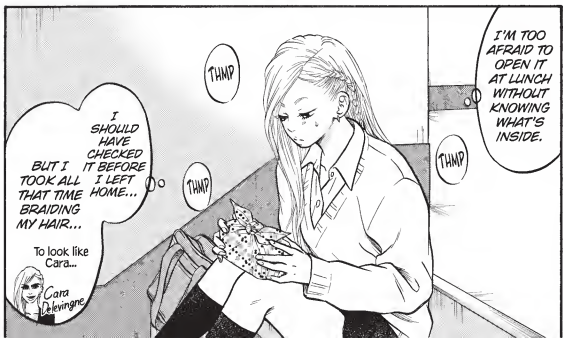
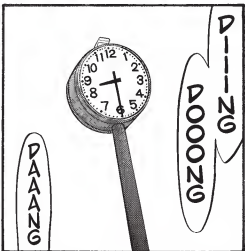
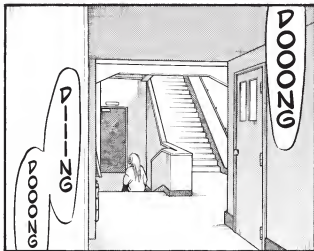
は
？ GASP

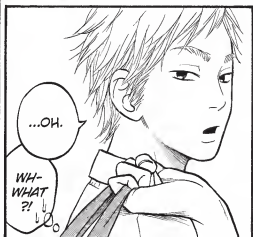
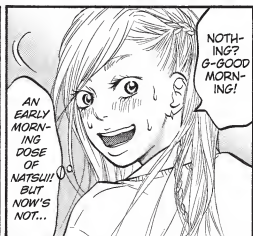


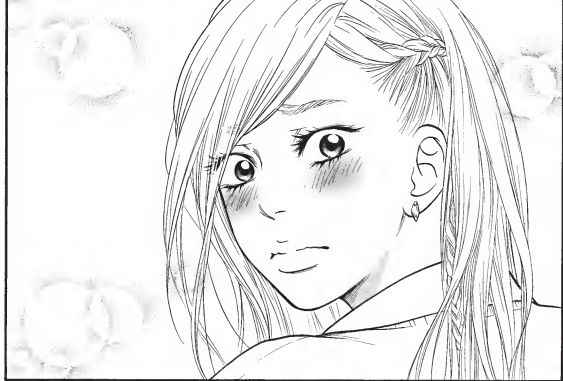
BUT IF I
TURN IT
DOWN...

IT'S
NOT A
MATTER
OF NOT
WANTING
IT...
...SO
MUCH
AS THIS
UNIDEN-
TIFIABLE
DREAD.









BUT
NATSUI...
I...

I KNOW
HE THINKS
WE'RE
JUST
FRIENDS...



HE
ALWAYS
MAKES IT
A POINT
TO SAY
HI.

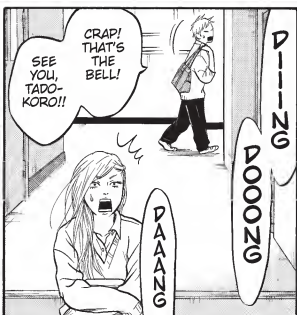
NATSUI...



I
NEVER
GOT TO
DO MY
LUNCH
CHECK
...

DASH

DONG

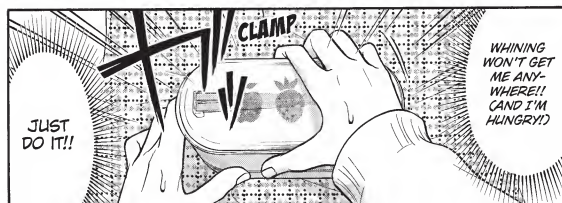
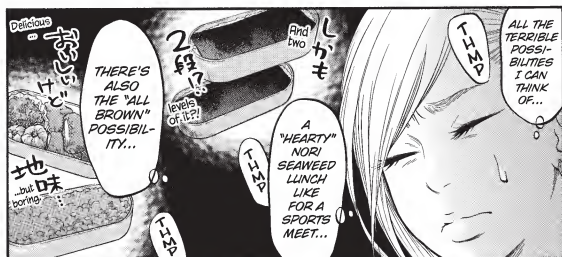
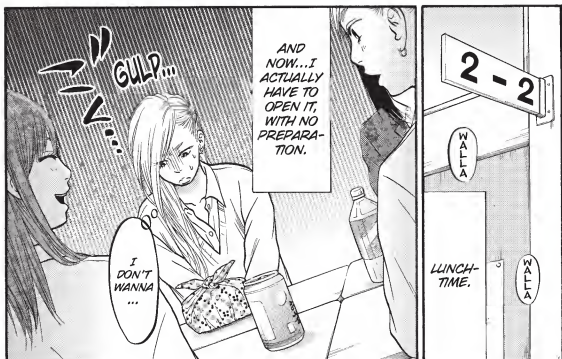


CRAP!
THAT'S
THE
BELL!
SEE
YOU,
TADO-
KORO!!

DONG

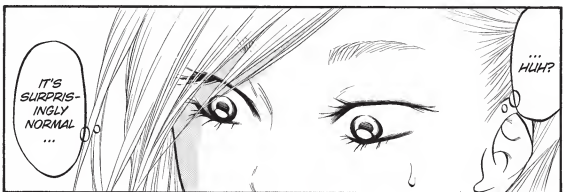
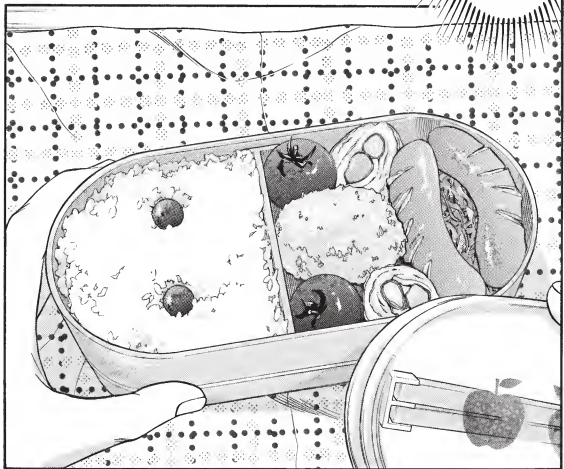
DONG

DONG



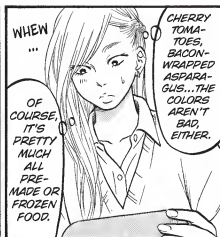
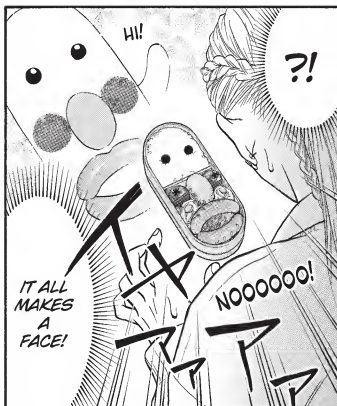


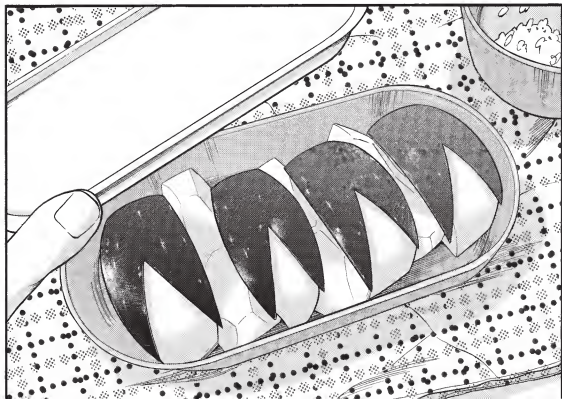
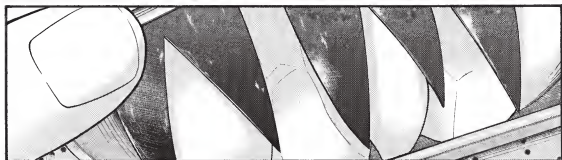
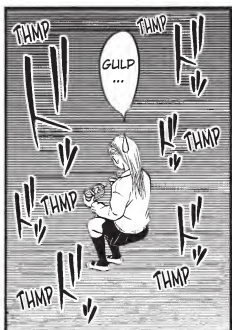
NOW-
WWW...
OPEN!!!



IT'S
SURPRIS-
INGLY
NORMAL
...

...
HUH?





"YOU HAVE
TO PUT
BUNNY
APPLES IN
MY LUNCH
FOR TO-
MORROW'S
FIELD TRIP!"



"WASHING
DOESN'T
TAKE THEM
OFF."

"SO
WASH
THEM
OFF!"

"BLUNNY
APPLES?"

NO. APPLE
PEELS ARE
COVERED
WITH
CHEMICALS."

"THIS IS NOT
YUMI-CHAN'S
HOUSE."

"YUMI-CHAN'S
LUNCH
ALWAYS HAS
B-BUNNY
APPLES!"

"BUM...
BUNNY
APPLES!"



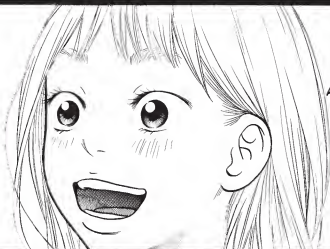
"SHINO,
WANT ME
TO MAKE
YOU SOME
BUNNY
APPLES?"

"I'LL SEE
YOU TWO
LATER. PLAY
NICE WHILE
I'M GONE."

"OKAY!"

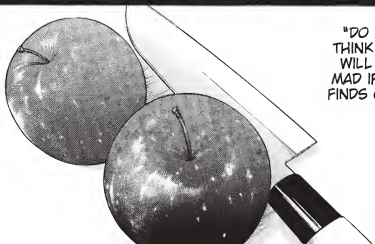


"YEAH,
I'M REALLY
GOOD AT
PEELING
APPLES!"



"WHAT?
YOU CAN
MAKE
BUNNY
APPLES?!"

"DON'T
WORRY. WE
JUST HAVE
TO EAT
THEM ALL,
AND SHE'LL
NEVER
KNOW."



"DO YOU
THINK MOM
WILL GET
MAD IF SHE
FINDS OUT?"

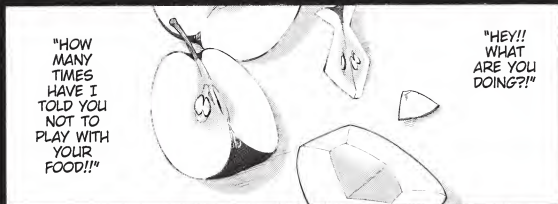


"YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
DOING IT
RIGHT."



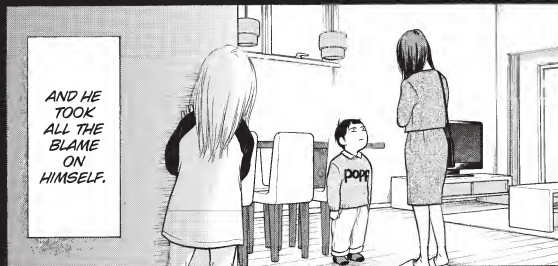
"!!!"

"OW!!"



"HOW
MANY
TIMES
HAVE I
TOLD YOU
NOT TO
PLAY WITH
YOUR
FOOD!!!"

"HEY!!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!"



AND HE
TOOK
ALL THE
BLAME
ON
HIMSELF.

MID-
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
?

EARLY
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
...?

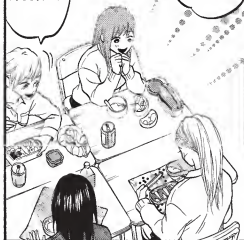
WHEN
WAS
THAT?

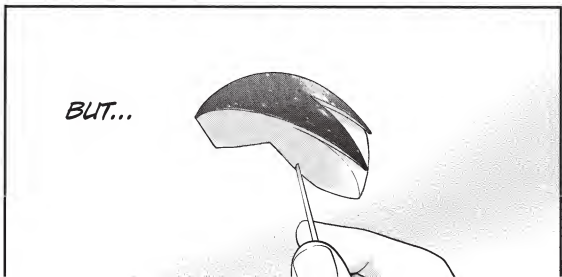
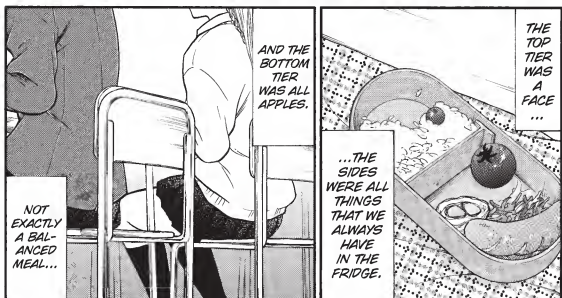
HE RE-
MEMBERS
SOMETHING
FROM THAT
LONG AGO?

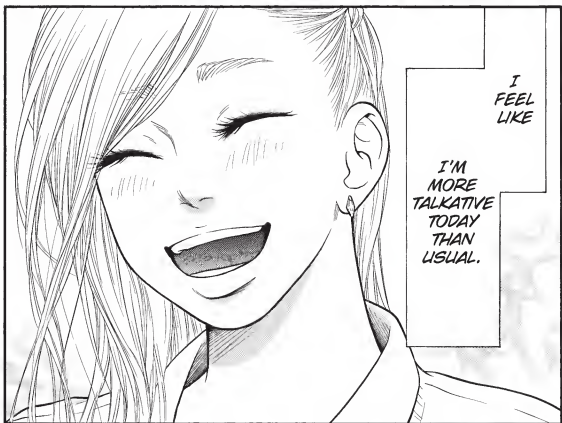


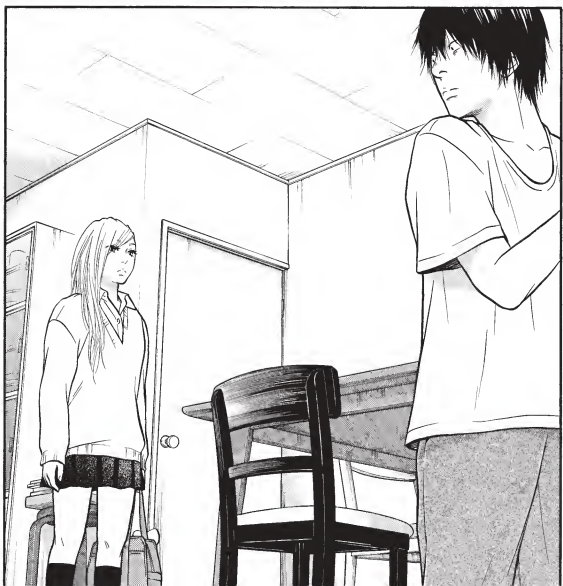
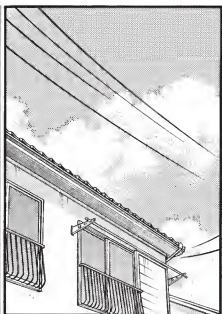
SHE
DOES!
THEY'RE
SO
CLITE!
HEY!
WANNA
TRADE
DESSERT?

AH!
SHINO!
YOU HAVE
BUNNY
APPLES
TODAY!

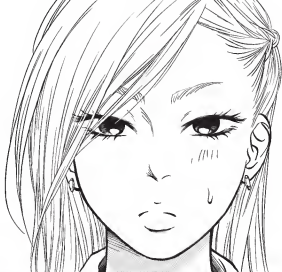








WHAT
SHOULD
I SAY
FIRST?

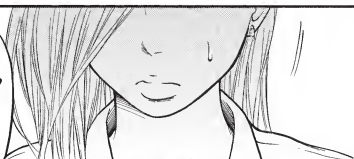


"THANK
YOU?"
OR "I'M
HOME"?



YOU
...

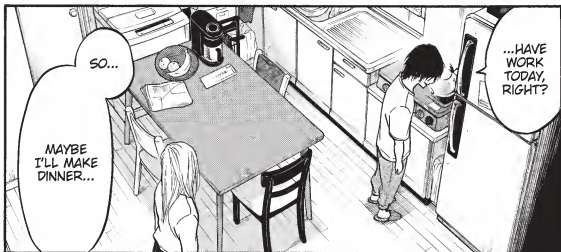
...CRAP.
AN AWK-
WARD
PAUSE.

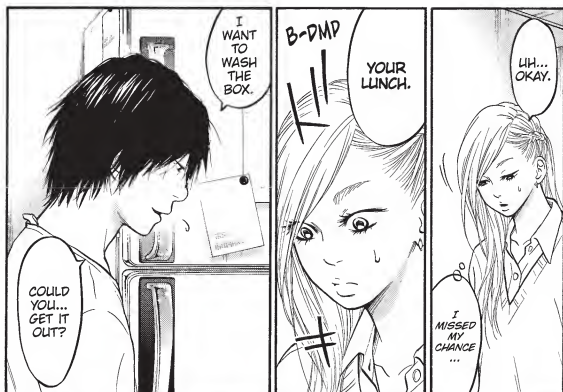


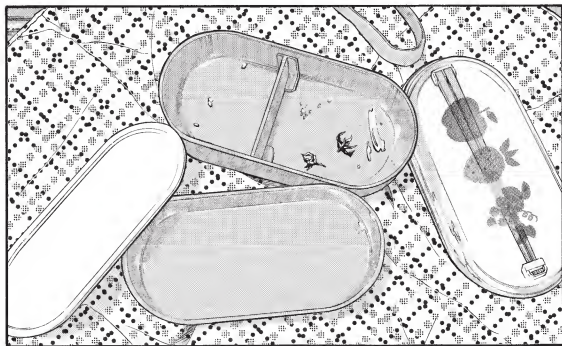
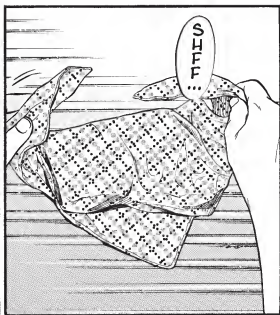
SO...

MAYBE
I'LL MAKE
DINNER...

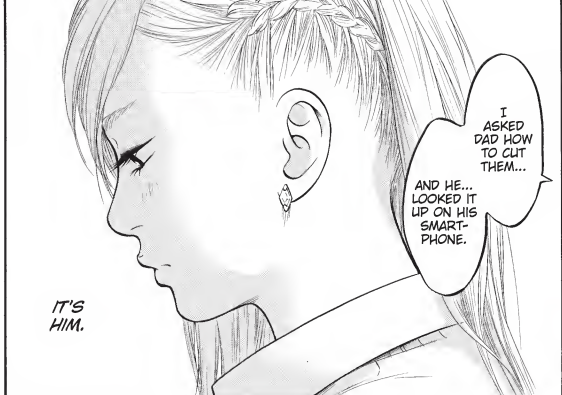
...HAVE
WORK
TODAY,
RIGHT?











I
ASKED
DAD HOW
TO CUT
THEM...

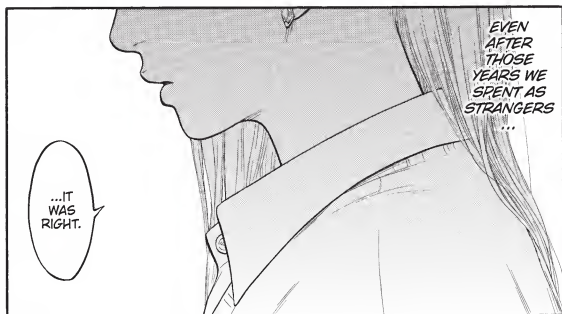
AND HE...
LOOKED IT
UP ON HIS
SMART-
PHONE.

*IT'S
HIM.*



*...MY
NII-CHAN.*

*IT
REALLY
IS...*



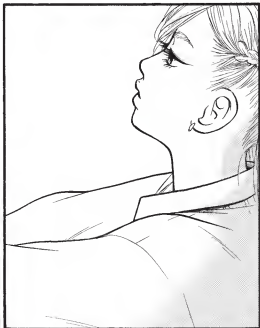
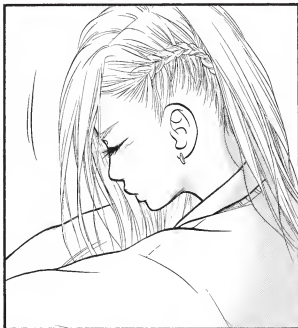
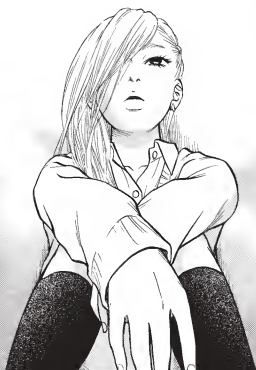
*...IT
WAS
RIGHT.*

*EVEN
AFTER
THOSE
YEARS WE
SPENT AS
STRANGERS
...*



...THESE
FOUR
YEARS
MIGHT
HAVE
TURNED
OUT VERY
DIFFER-
ENTLY.

IF I'D
HAD A
"HEALTHY,
SENSIBLE
'OLDER
BROTHER"
...



I
HATE
TO
ADMIT
IT...

...BUT
THAT'S
JUST
HOW
SHAKEN
UP I
WAS.

IT'S
JUST A
STUPID
APPLE WITH
SOME OF
THE PEEL
STILL ON
IT...

DAMMIT.

AFTER
ALL THIS
TIME, I'M
ASKING
MYSELF
THESE
QUEST-
IONS
NOW.

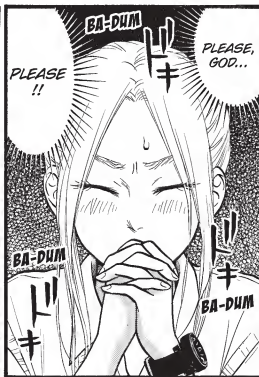
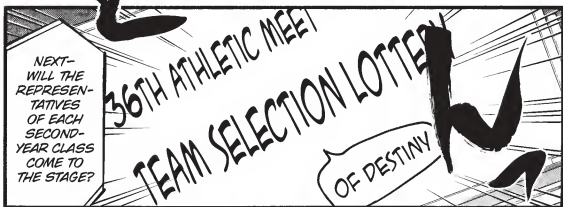
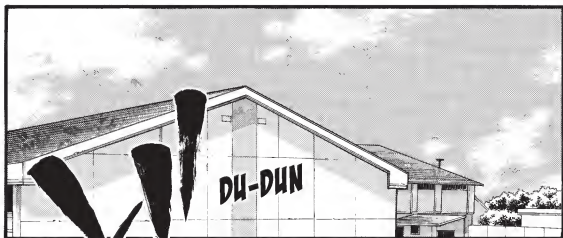
MY BROTHER THE SHUT-IN

Selfies



Chapter 4: The Door



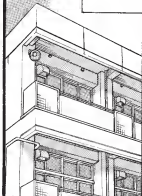






...THE IMPOSSIBLY IMPOSSIBLE HAPPENED.

A FEW DAYS LATER



I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.



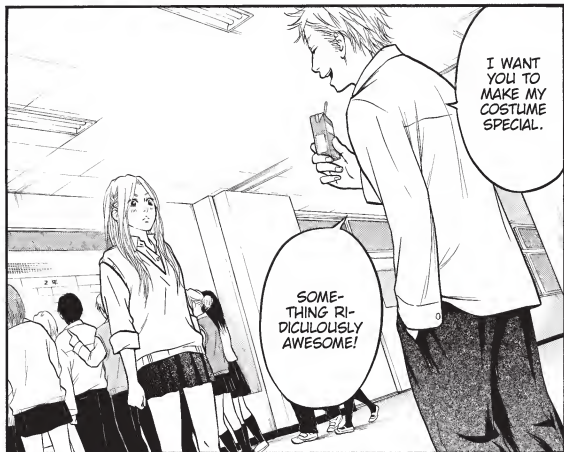
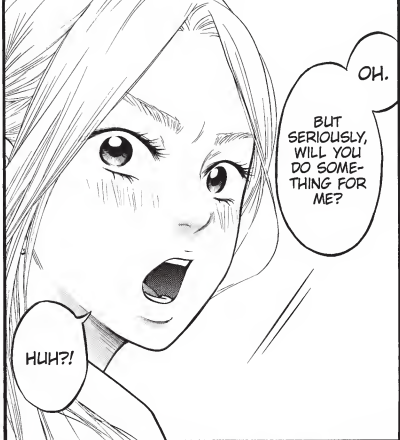
YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF RHYTHM.

JUST DON'T SLOW ME DOWN, OKAY?



I GUESS WE'LL BE DANCING TOGETHER.

IS THE THIRD YEAR WHO CHOSE THESE PAIRS...A GOD?



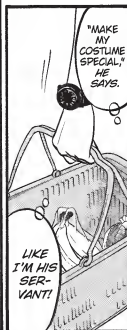


HOO
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
...

WELL,
BRING IT
ON!!

I'LL
WORK
MY
BUTT
OFF!

CLENCH
...

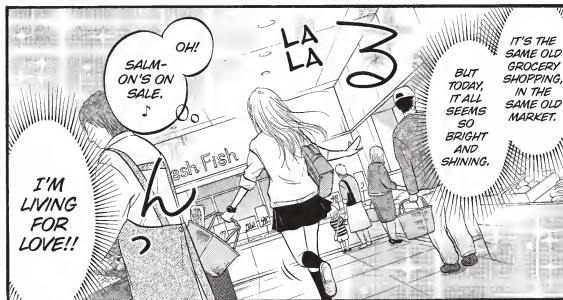


"MAKE
MY
COSTUME
SPECIAL,"
HE SAYS.

LIKE
I'M HIS
SER-
VANT!



...EX-
CUSE
ME?!

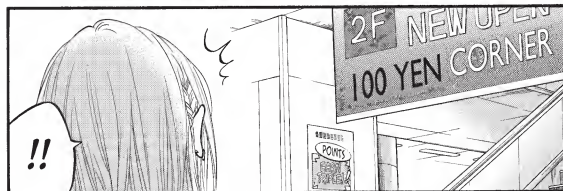


OH!
SALM-
ON'S ON
SALE.

LA
LA
LA

I'M
LIVING
FOR
LOVE!!

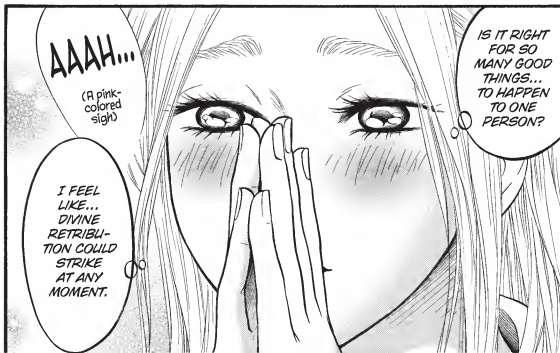
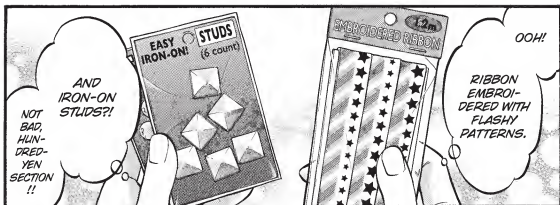
IT'S THE
SAME OLD
GROCERY
SHOPPING,
IN THE
SAME OLD
MARKET.
BUT
TODAY,
IT ALL
SEEMS
SO
BRIGHT
AND
SHINING.

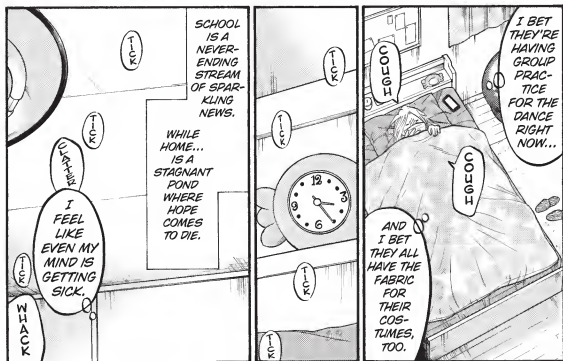
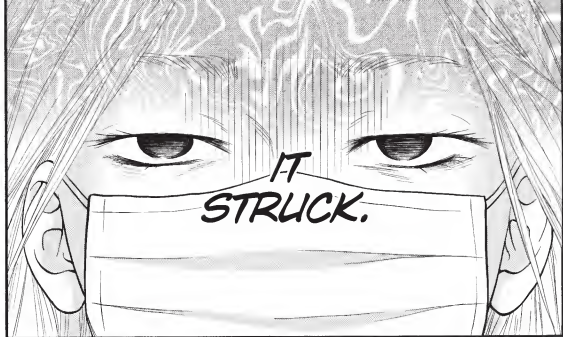


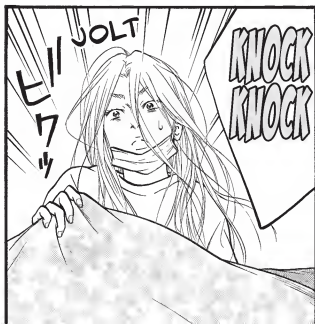
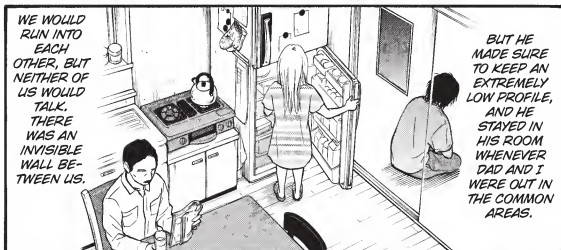
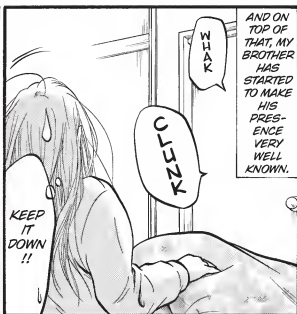
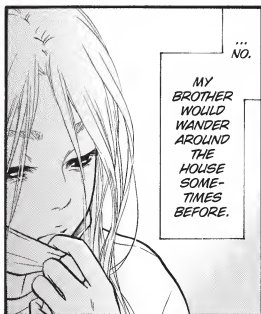
!!

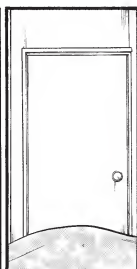
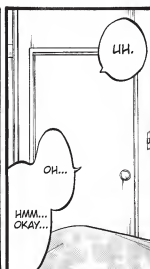
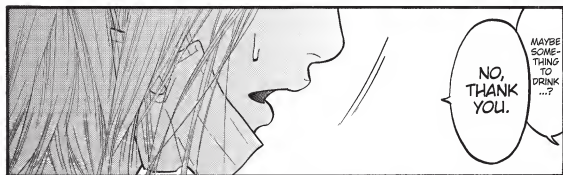
2F NEW OPEN
100 YEN CORNER

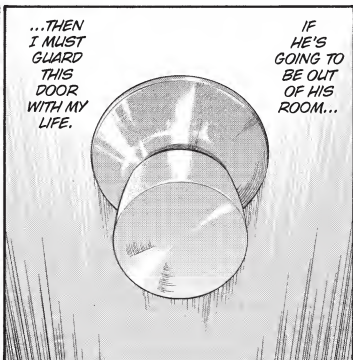
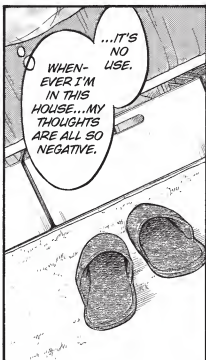
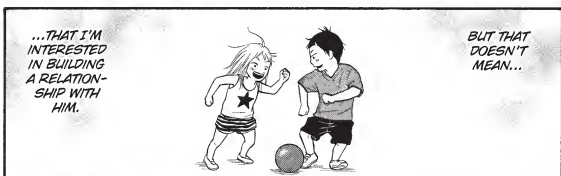
POINTS

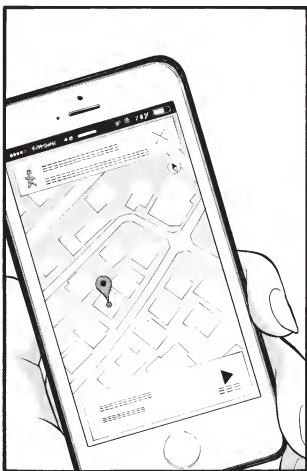
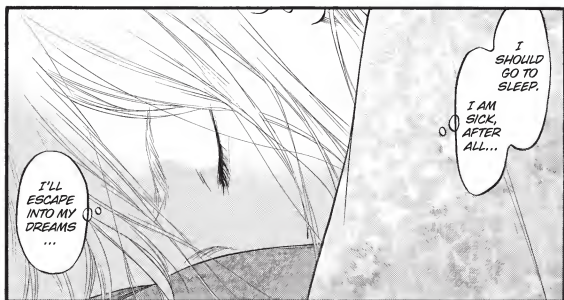




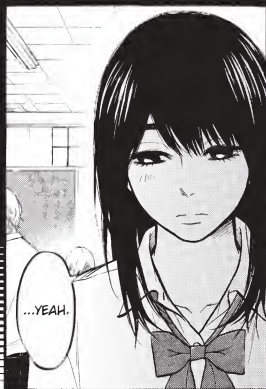












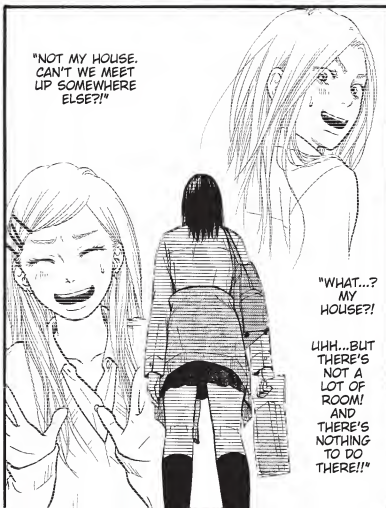
...YEAH.



MAYBE
WE
SHOULD
TAKE
HER THE
FABRIC?

WHAT
ARE WE
GOING
TO DO
ABOUT
HER?

SHE
WAS SO
DETERMINED
TO MAKE AN
AWESOME
COSTUME
FOR NATSUI,
TOO.

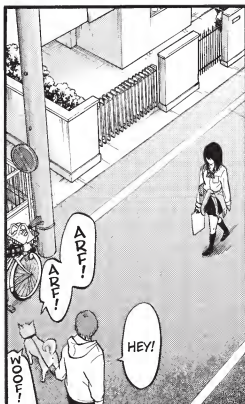


"NOT MY HOUSE.
CAN'T WE MEET
UP SOMEWHERE
ELSE?!"

"WHAT...?
MY
HOUSE?!"

UHH...BUT
THERE'S
NOT A
LOT OF
ROOM!
AND
THERE'S
NOTHING
TO DO
THERE!!"







...A
WOLF?

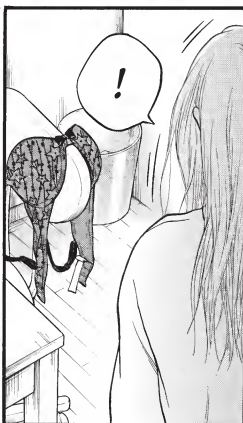


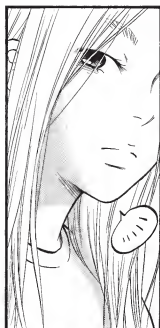




*A GIRL WHO TENDS TO LIE, LIKE "THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF."



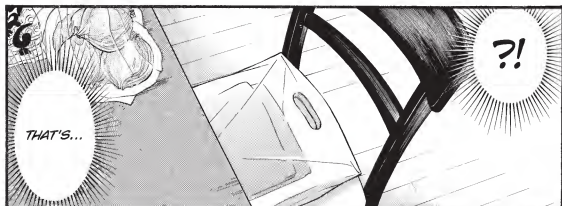




F-1-ZOI

KACHAK

...I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT IF HE WEREN'T HERE.



THAT'S...

?!

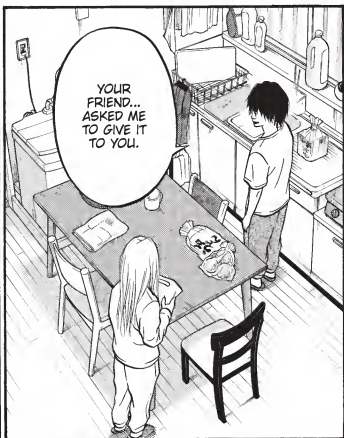
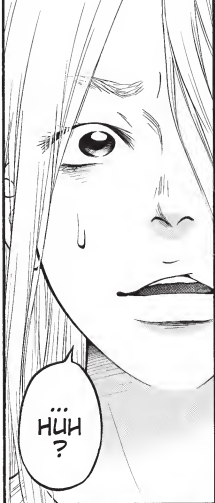


WHAT?! NO WAY, WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE??

FABRIC!! FOR THE PARTNER DANCE!

OH...

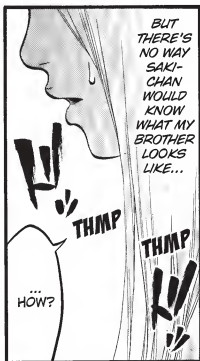
THAT'S---





UH...

ACTUALLY,
I TALKED
TO HER.



BUT
THERE'S
NO WAY
SAKI-
CHAN
WOULD
KNOW
WHAT MY
BROTHER
LOOKS
LIKE...

THMP

THMP

...HOW?



WHAT
DID SHE SAY
WHEN SHE
TALKED TO
YOU?



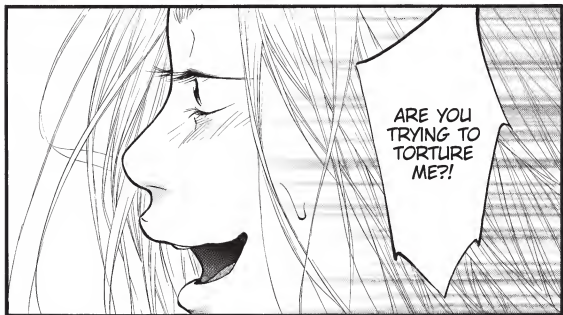
MAN...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
TALKED TO A
GIRL OUTSIDE
THE HOUSE...

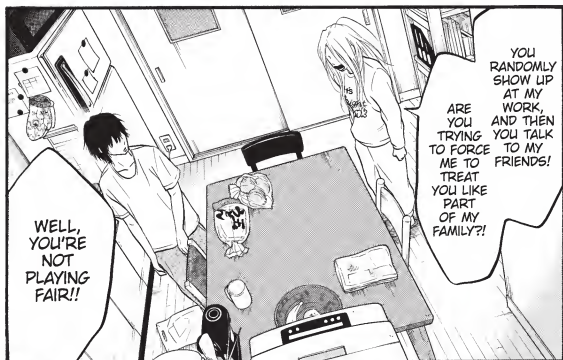
SHE
WAS KIND
OF STARING
AT OUR
HOUSE,
SO...



...
NGH!

FWAP





WELL,
YOU'RE
NOT
PLAYING
FAIR!!

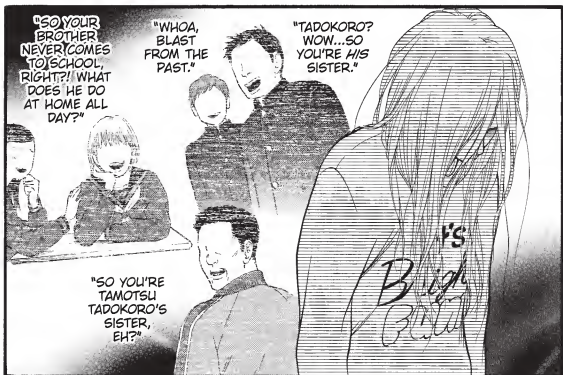
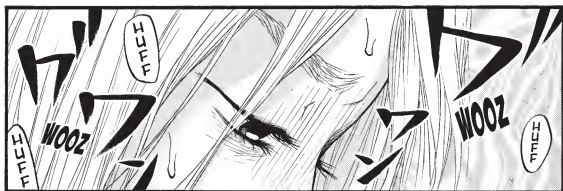
YOU
RANDOMLY
SHOW UP
AT MY
WORK,
AND THEN
YOU TALK
TO MY
FRIENDS!

ARE
YOU
TRYING
TO FORCE
ME TO
TREAT
YOU LIKE
PART
OF MY
FAMILY?!



I HAVE
MY OWN
LIFE!!

STOP
TRYING TO
BE A PART
OF IT!!





"LIAR."



I
NEED TO
CHANGE
CLOTHES.

WAVER
...

OH
NO...
I'M
COLD...

I'M
COLD...
BUT I
CAN'T
STOP
SWEATING.



BUT
I'M STILL
YOUR BIG
BROTHER
!!!

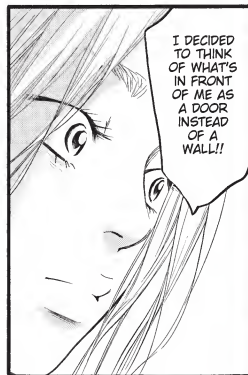
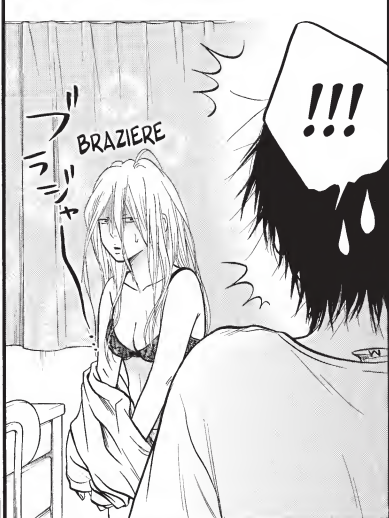


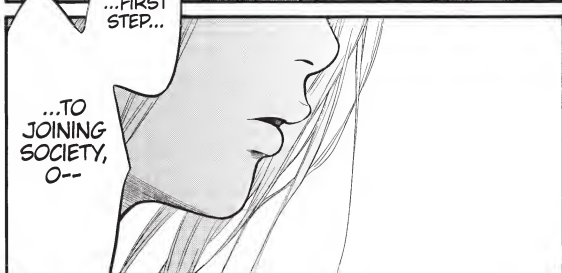
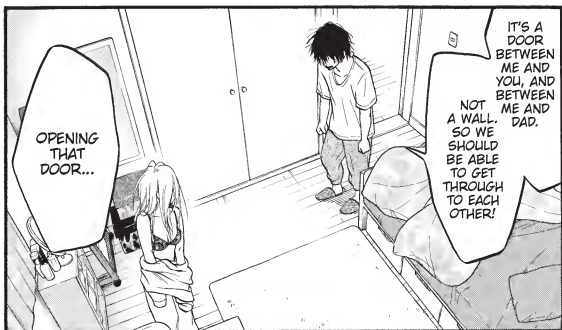
YOU-

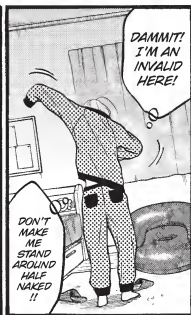
YOU
MAY
THINK...

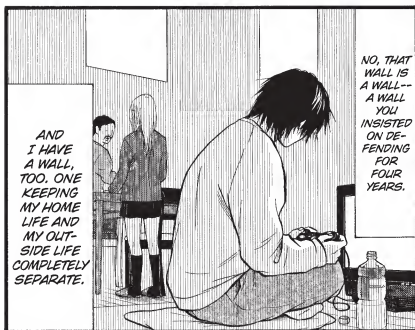
BAM

...THAT
I'M A
PAIN!





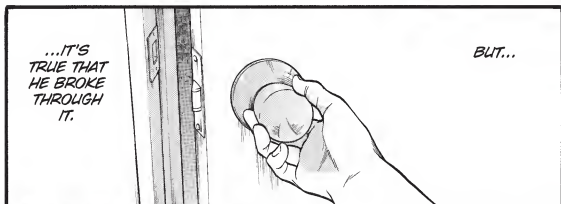




AND
I HAVE
A WALL,
TOO. ONE
KEEPING
MY HOME
LIFE AND
MY OUT-
SIDE LIFE
COMPLETELY
SEPARATE.

NO, THAT
WALL IS
A WALL--
A WALL
YOU
INSISTED
ON DE-
FENDING
FOR
FOUR
YEARS.

"A DOOR
INSTEAD OF
A WALL."



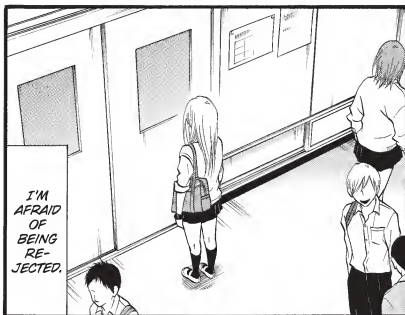
...IT'S
TRUE THAT
HE BROKE
THROUGH
IT.

BUT...



WHAT
MY
BROTHER
SAID
THAT
DAY...

EVEN
AFTER
ALL THE
REJEC-
TION I
THREW
AT HIM?
HE'S
BEEN
HERE
STAGNAT-
ING ALL
THIS
TIME...SO
WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
HIM?



I'M
AFRAID
OF
BEING
RE-
JECTED.



2-2



31
SIGH?

I'M
STILL
NOT
READY
FOR IT.



I'M
AFRAID
OF
HAVING
PEOPLE
POINT
OUT
EVERY-
THING
I'VE
DONE
WRONG.

...ON THE
OTHER
SIDE OF
THAT
DOOR...

BUT
...

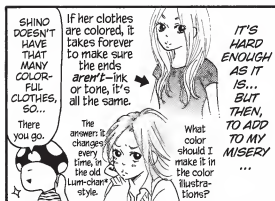
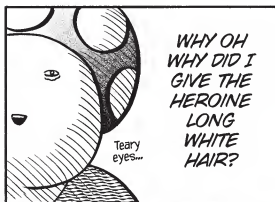
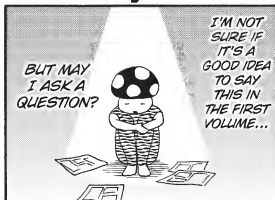
...
EVEN
IF I
HAVE
TO
RISK
IT
ALL.

...IS
SOME-
ONE
WHO
MEANS
ENOUGH
TO ME
THAT I
WANT
TO TALK
TO HER
ABOUT
IT...

RATTLE

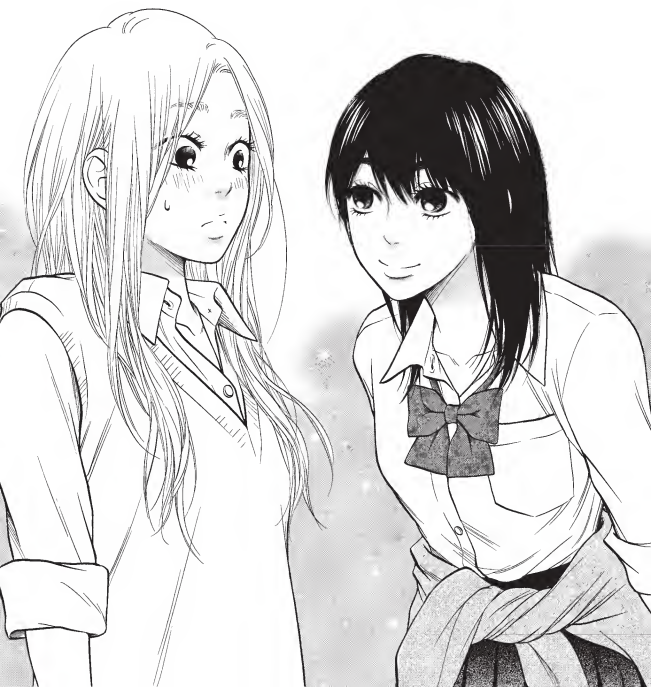
MY BROTHER THE SHUT-IN

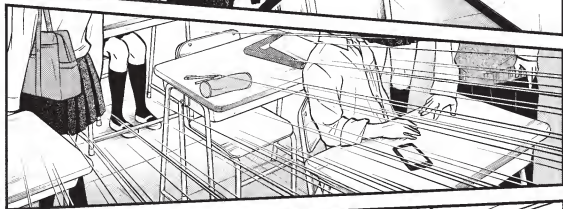
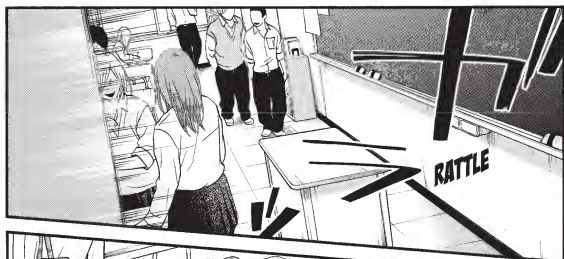
Regret

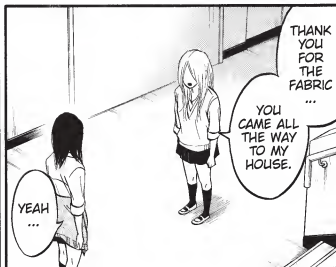
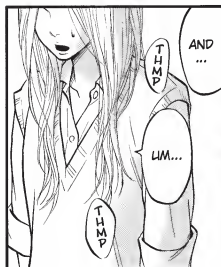


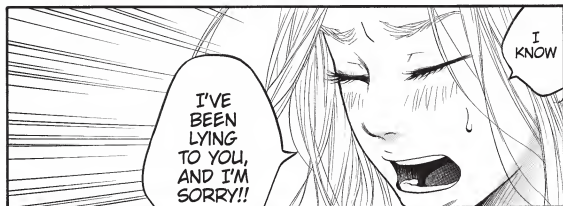
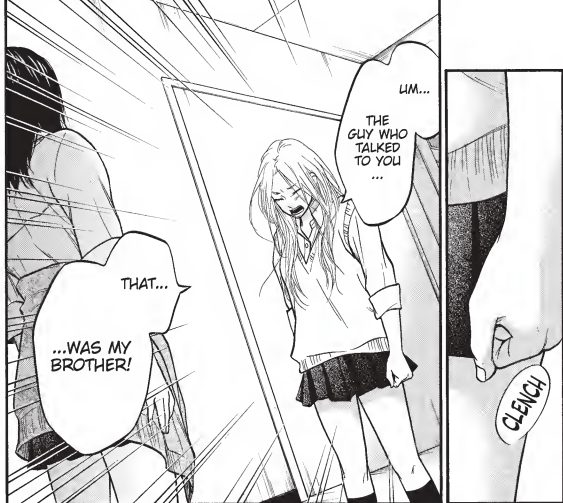
*A CLASSIC MANGA HEROINE WITH COLOR-CHANGING HAIR.

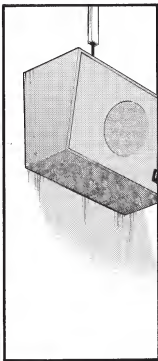
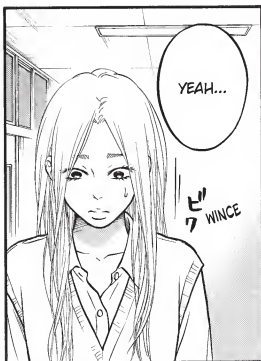
Chapter 5: Inspired By His Sister

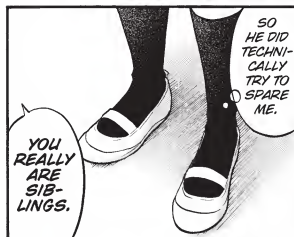
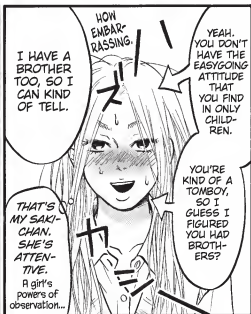
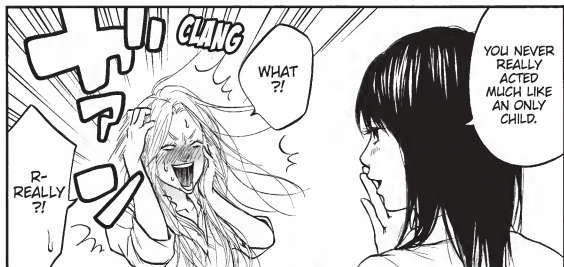






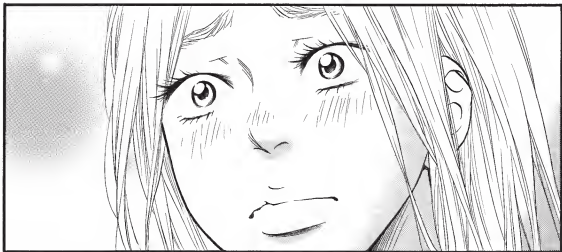








YOU'RE
BOTH
SUCH BAD
LIARS!



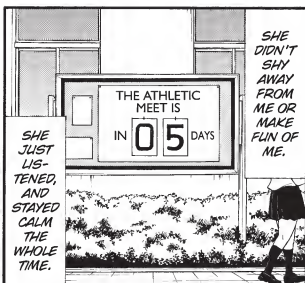
SO I
DECIDED TO
TELL SAKI-
CHAN ALL
ABOUT MY
FAMILY
SITUATION.

I FELT
LIKE THAT
SMILE
FORGAVE
ME.



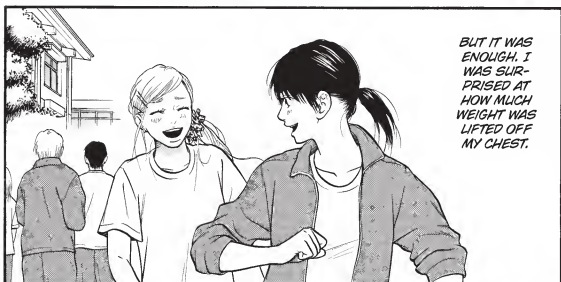
AND I
HAVEN'T
CLEARED
UP THE
PROB-
LEMS
WITH MY
BROTHER.

THIS
DOESN'T
MEAN
I'M NOW
TELLING
ZERO
LIES
TO MY
FRIENDS.



SHE
JUST
LIS-
TENED,
AND
STAYED
CALM
THE
WHOLE
TIME.

SHE
DIDN'T
SHY
AWAY
FROM
ME OR
MAKE
FUN OF
ME.



BUT IT WAS
ENOUGH. I
WAS SUR-
PRISED AT
HOW MUCH
WEIGHT WAS
LIFTED OFF
MY CHEST.



B-
DMD

YOU
REALLY
ARE
LUCKY TO
BE PAIRED
WITH
YOUR
CRUSH,
SHINO.

PSST ...

THERE
ARE
EVEN
SOME
GIRL-
GIRL
PAIRS.

*A CLASS THAT'S MOSTLY FEMALE



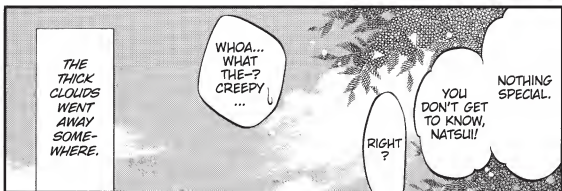
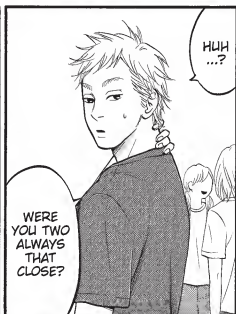
WE'RE
STARTING
THE
GROUP
DANCE
PRACTICE!

WALLA
WALLA
WALLA
WALLA
EVERY-
BODY
PAIR
UP!

THE
RED
TEAM
FIRST-
AND
SECOND-
YEARS
HAVE
SOME F-
CLASS-
ES*.

ACK!
EVERY-
ONE'S
ALREADY
HERE!

THERE'S
A LOT OF
GIRLS!!





AND MY
HEART
FELT
LIKE THE
EARLY
SUMMER
SKY.



WE'VE
BEEN
BLESSED
WITH FINE
WEATHER
TODAY...

WELL
...



SWOOSH



OKAY,
HERE
GOES!

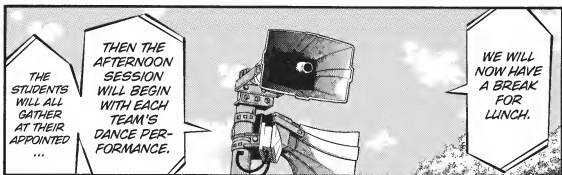
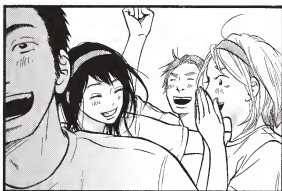
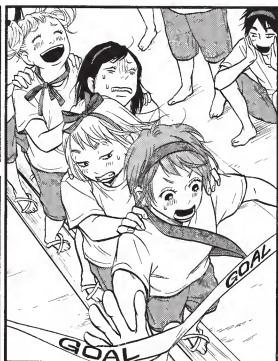
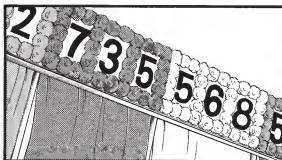
ME,
TOO,
SENPAI
!!



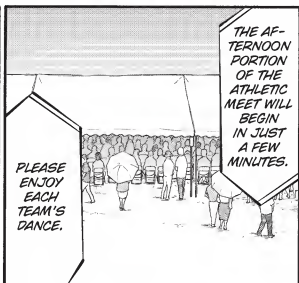
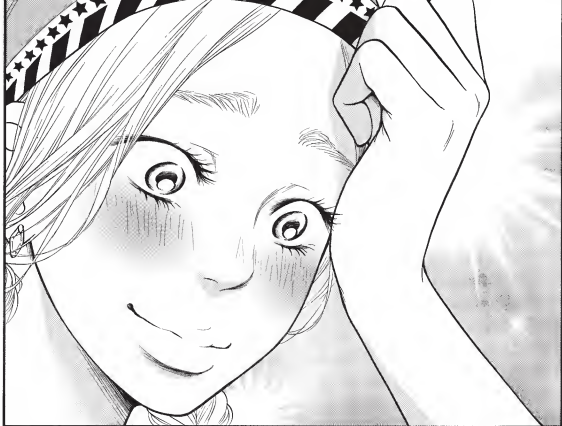
UGH, I
WOULDN'T
CALL
THIS A
"BLESS-
ING."

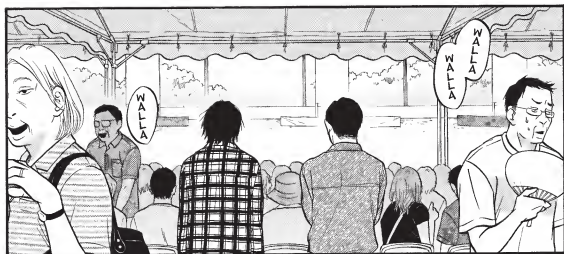
IT'S
SOOO
HOT
...

CRAP, I'M
GONNA
BURN. DID
ANYBODY
BRING
SUN-
BLOCK?!

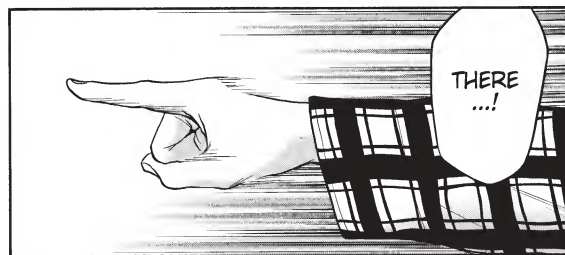


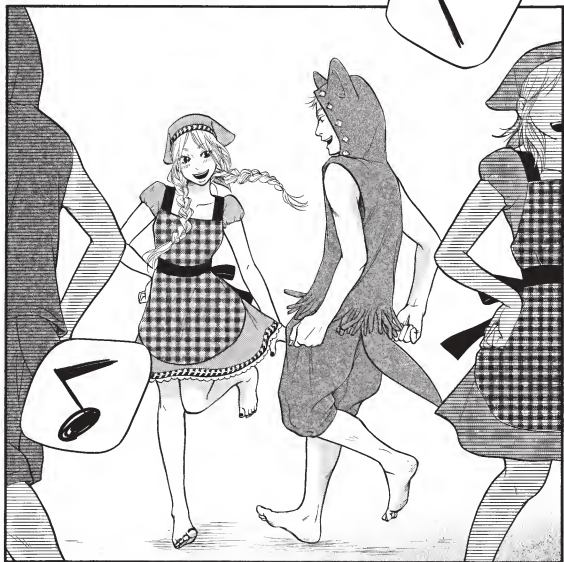
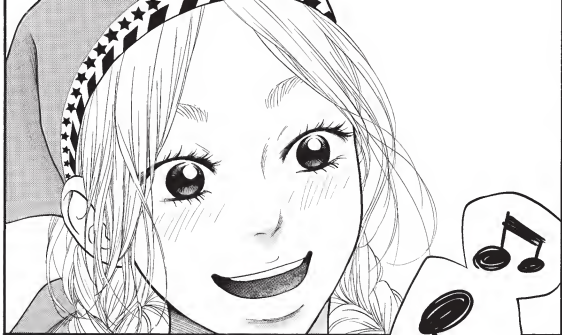


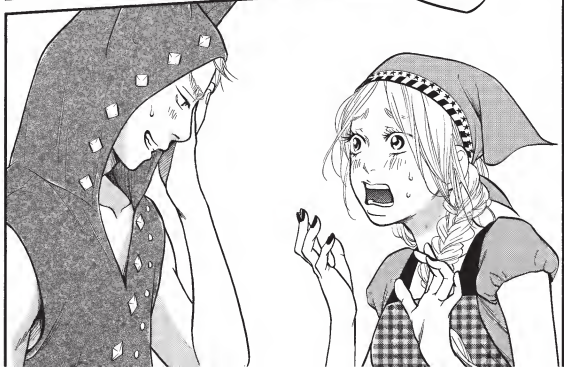
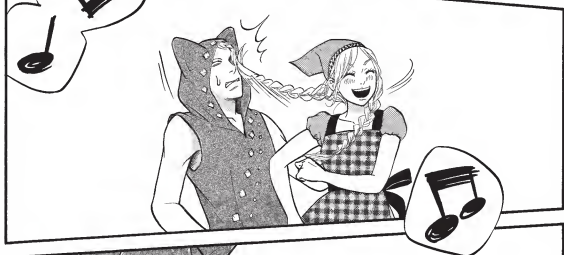


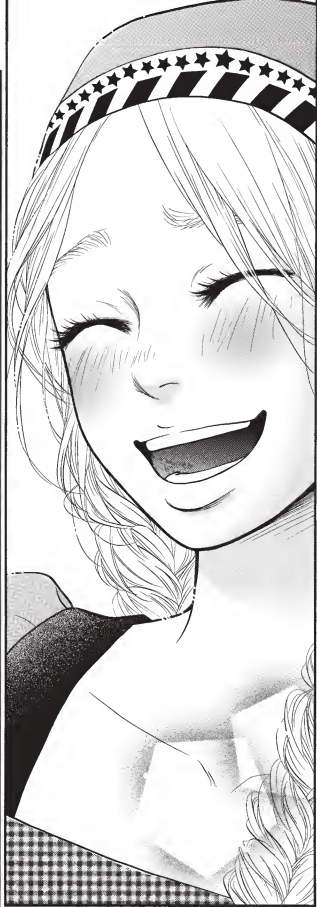


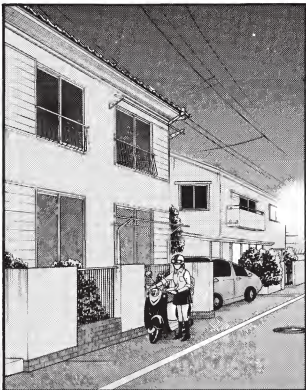
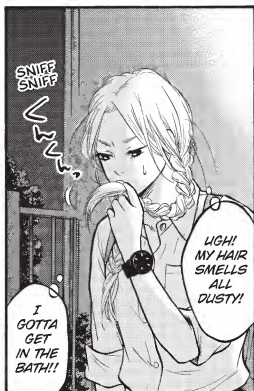


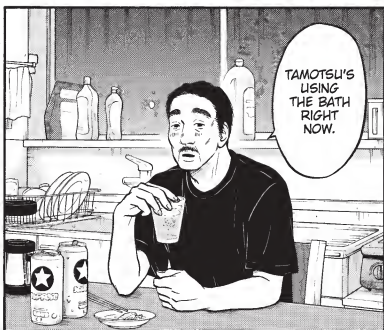
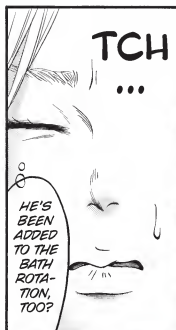


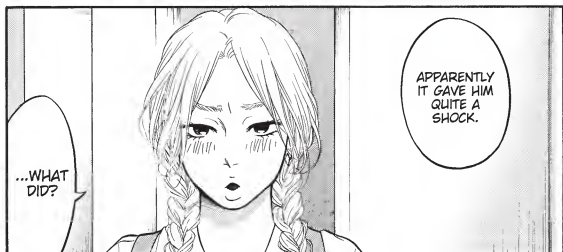
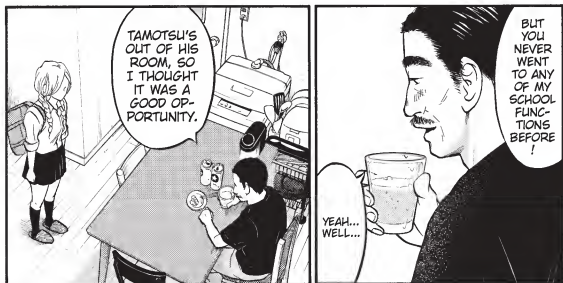








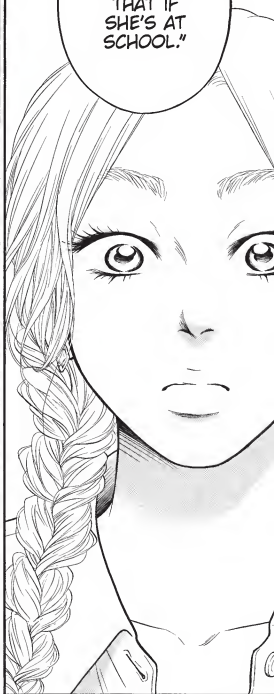


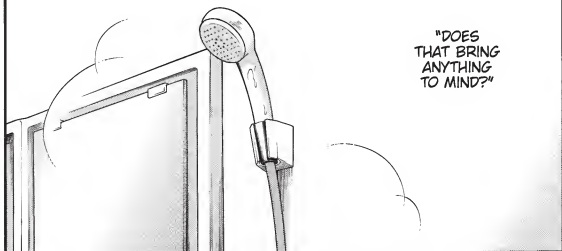




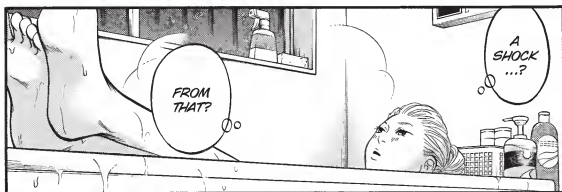
THERE'S A
GAPING HOLE
IN TAMOTSU'S
LIFE WHERE
"HIGH SCHOOL"
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN.

HE SAID,
"SO SHE CAN
SMILE LIKE
THAT IF
SHE'S AT
SCHOOL."





"DOES
THAT BRING
ANYTHING
TO MIND?"



FROM
THAT?

A
SHOCK
...?

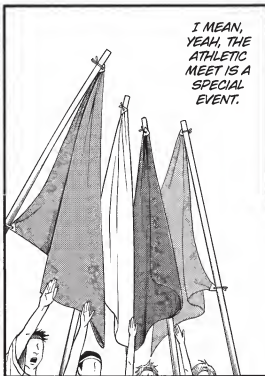


I JUST
CAN'T
IMAGINE
IT...

A LIFE
WITHOUT
HIGH
SCHOOL
...



BUT STILL,
IT'S JUST ONE
SNAPSHOT
OUT OF THREE
YEARS OF A
HIGH SCHOOL
LIFE...



I MEAN,
YEAH, THE
ATHLETIC
MEET IS A
SPECIAL
EVENT.

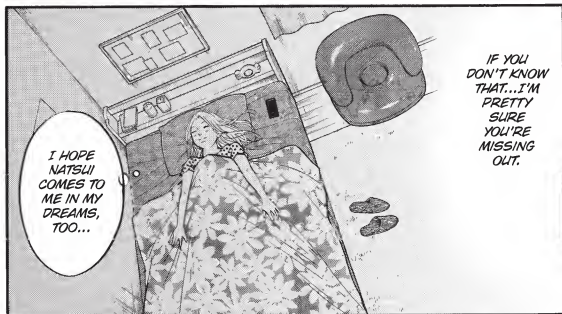


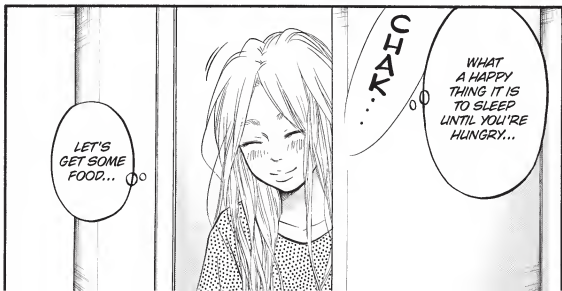
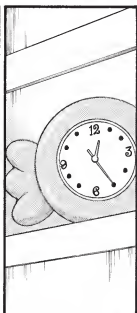
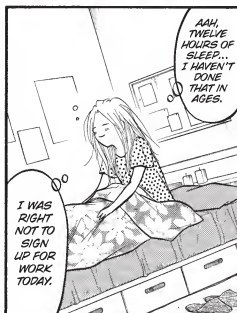
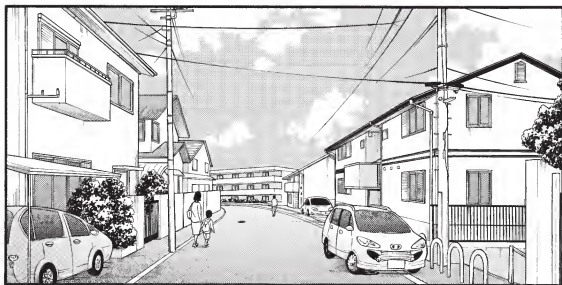


BEING
AT HOME AND
BEING OUTSIDE-
IT'S LIKE TWO
DIFFERENT
WORLDS.

OF
COURSE
I CAN.

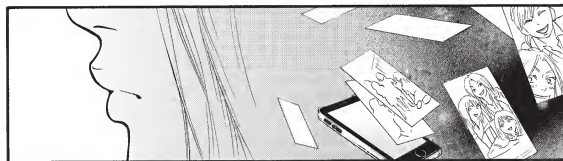
"SO SHE
CAN SMILE
LIKE THAT
IF SHE'S AT
SCHOOL."

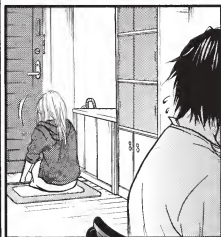


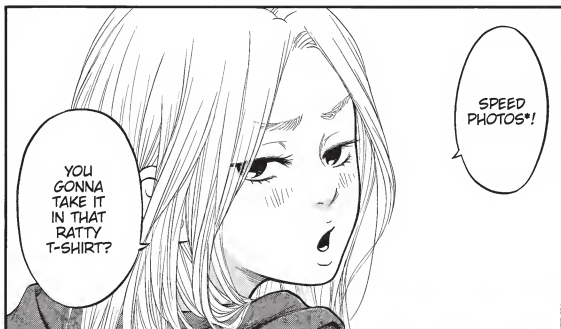




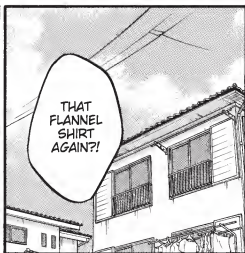








*AN AUTOMATED PROFESSIONAL PHOTO-TAKING SERVICE.



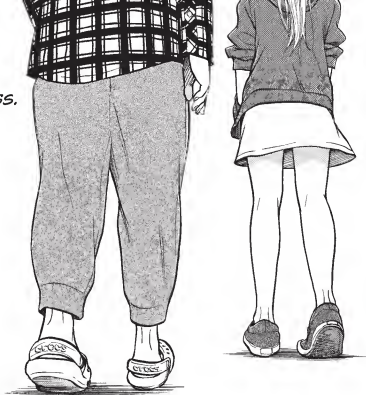
WELL,
WHATEVER!

AND
SO...

...AS I
WENT OUT
WITH MY
BROTHER
FOR THE
FIRST TIME
SINCE WE
MOVED
...

ELVE

AND
FEARLESS.



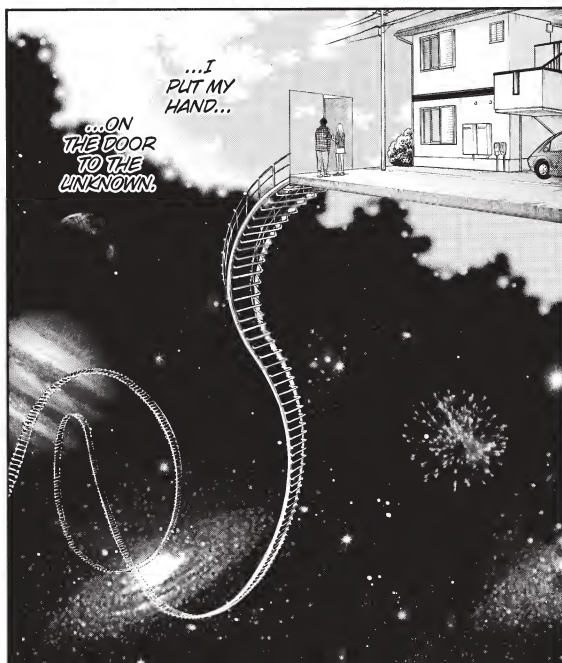
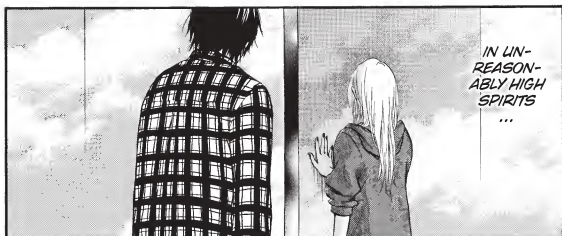
...FOR
SOME
REASON,
I WAS
FEELING
STRANGELY
OPTIMISTIC.

...WHAT
LAY IN
STORE
FOR US
ON THE
PATH
AHEAD.



I HAD NO
WAY OF
KNOWING

...



MY BROTHER THE SHUT-IN VOLUME 1 TRANSLATION NOTES

GEKIDAN HITORI, PAGE 6

[6.2]

GEKIDAN HITORI IS A JAPANESE COMEDIAN. HIS NAME MEANS ROUGHLY, "THEATER TROUPE OF ONE." APPARENTLY SHINO'S FRIENDS USE CELEBRITIES AS REFERENCE WHEN DESCRIBING BOYS' LOOKS.

STUDENT STORE, PAGE 9

[9.1]

JAPANESE HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE A STORE WHERE STUDENTS CAN GO TO BUY FOOD AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES. THIS IS WHERE THEY GO TO BUY LUNCH IF THEY DIDN'T BRING ONE FROM HOME. THE LINES CAN GET PRETTY LONG AND POPULAR ITEMS SELL OUT QUICKLY, SO IT HELPS TO BE IN A CLASS THAT'S NEARBY.

GOOD MORNING, PAGE 19

[19.3]

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON IN CERTAIN PLACES OF BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SERVICE AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES, TO GREET COWORKERS WITH "GOOD MORNING," REGARDLESS OF THE TIME OF DAY. THE JAPANESE *OHAYO GOZAIMASU* DOESN'T MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE MORNING—IT'S SIMPLY A VERY HUMBLE WAY OF REMARKING THAT IT IS EARLY—SO WHILE IT WOULD STILL SOUND OUT OF PLACE TO A JAPANESE SPEAKER WHO IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE PRACTICE, IT'S NOT TECHNICALLY INCORRECT. THERE ARE SEVERAL THEORIES AS TO WHY IT BECAME A HABIT, ONE OF WHICH BEING THAT IT STARTED IN THE KABUKI WORLD, WHEN THE LEADER OF A THEATER TROUPE WOULD GO INTO HIS DRESSING ROOM AFTER A DAY OF PERFORMANCES, AND THE ACTORS WOULD HUMBLINGLY REMARK ON HIS EARLY ARRIVAL. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT, BECAUSE GREETINGS SUCH AS *KONNICHI WA* (GOOD DAY) AND *KONBAN WA* (GOOD EVENING) START WITH *KON*, THEY ARE UNLUCKY BECAUSE THEY SUGGEST CUSTOMERS "WILL NOT COME (*KON*)."

PHOTO STICKER, PAGE 21

[21.4]

IN JAPAN, THERE ARE SPECIAL PHOTO BOOTHS WHERE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CAN GET PICTURES TAKEN AND HAVE THEM INSTANTLY PRINTED ON STICKERS, WHICH CAN THEN BE USED TO DECORATE PHONES, NOTEBOOKS, ETC. MOST OF THE BOOTHS ALSO HAVE FEATURES THAT LET YOU WRITE AND DRAW ON THE STICKERS BEFORE PRINTING, AND NATURALLY THEY HAVE ALL KINDS OF CUTE BACKDROPS.

LINE, PAGE 48

[48.5]

LINE IS AN INSTANT MESSAGING SERVICE, ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO HELP PEOPLE COMMUNICATE AFTER THE 2011 TŌHOKU EARTHQUAKE. IT HAS SINCE GROWN TO BECOME THE MOST POPULAR WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH IN JAPAN, AND MOST PEOPLE WILL USE IT INSTEAD OF EMAIL, TEXT MESSAGING, OR EVEN FACEBOOK.

TORNADO SAUSAGE, PAGE 61

[61.4]

NAMED FOR ITS SPIRAL SHAPE, A "TORNADO SAUSAGE," OR "*GURU-GURU WIENER*" (FROM THE JAPANESE FOR "ROUND AND ROUND" AND THE GERMAN FOR "SAUSAGE"), IS A SAUSAGE THAT HAS BEEN CURLED INTO A ROUND SPIRAL SHAPE, LIKE A BIG CARNIVAL LOLLIPOP.

AN AGE DEVOID OF LOVE, PAGE 76

[76.1]

THIS IS AN ENGLISH RENDITION OF THE LYRICS TO KAZUYOSHI SAITŌ'S "*YASASHIKU NARITA!*" (I WANT TO BE KINDER), WHICH IS A LOVE SONG IN WHICH THE SINGER LONGS TO BE A BETTER MAN.

NI-CHAN, PAGE 82

[82.4]

NI-CHAN MEANS "BIG BROTHER," AND OFTEN IT IS WHAT YOUNGER SIBLINGS CALL THEIR OLDER BROTHERS INSTEAD OF USING THEIR GIVEN NAME.

WOLF GIRL, PAGE 146

[146.3]

"WOLF GIRL" IS A TERM THAT HAS COME TO BE USED FOR GIRLS WHO TELL A LOT OF LIES. THE ORIGINS ARE UNCLEAR, BUT IT MAY COME FROM THE FABLE ABOUT THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF, IN WHICH A SHEPHERD BOY TRIES TO BRING EXCITEMENT TO HIS LIFE BY TELLING THE WHOLE VILLAGE THAT A WOLF HAS ATTACKED HIS FLOCK. HE ENJOYS THE UPROAR IT CAUSES WHEN THE VILLAGERS RUSH TO FIGHT IT OFF ONLY TO FIND THAT THERE IS NO WOLF, SO HE DOES IT AGAIN. EVENTUALLY THE TOWN SEES HIM FOR THE LIAR THAT HE IS AND STOPS BELIEVING HIM. WHEN A REAL WOLF COMES, NO ONE COMES TO HELP.

LUM-CHAN, PAGE 166

[166.5]

THE HEROINE OF THE CLASSIC ANIME AND MANGA *LURUSEI YATSURA*, LUM IS A SPACE INVADER WHO ORIGINALLY HAD IRIDESCENT HAIR THAT WAS CONSTANTLY CHANGING COLORS. AT THE TIME THE SERIES WAS ANIMATED, TECHNOLOGY OF THE DAY DIDN'T ALLOW FOR THAT EFFECT, AND SO HER HAIR SETTLED INTO ONE COLOR, A LIGHT GREEN.

FAMILY SEATING, PAGE 180

[180.1]

SHINO'S FATHER FEELS THE TERM FOR FAMILY SEATING IS ESPECIALLY APPLICABLE TO SHINO'S FAMILY, BECAUSE THE WORD USED IS *FUKEI*, WHICH IS WRITTEN WITH CHARACTERS MEANING "FATHER" AND "OLDER BROTHER."

SPEED PHOTOS, PAGE 201

[201.1]

BECAUSE SELFIES ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR RESUME PHOTOS, SHINO IS TAKING HER BROTHER TO A PHOTO BOOTH DESIGNED TO TAKE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS QUICKLY. THESE PHOTO BOOTHS ARE USED TO TAKE RESUME AND PASSPORT PHOTOS, AND ARE CHEAPER THAN FINDING A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

My Brother the Shut In 1

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